

HM SENDS CABLE OF CONGRATULATIONS

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has sent a cable of congratulations to President Miguel Diaz Canel of Cuba on his country's National Day. In his cable, His Majesty the Sultan expressed his sincere greetings and wishes to the president and his country's people. **-ONA**



6 085010 120010

HM THE SULTAN SENDS CONDOLENCES TO INDIAN PM

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has sent a cable of condolences and sympathy to Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of the Republic of India on the death of his mother. In his cable, His Majesty the Sultan expressed his sincere condolences and sympathy to him and to members of his family. **-ONA**



Founded 1975 · Volume 47 No. 208 | 16 Pages · Baisas 200 · Subscription OMR63 | ISO 9001:2008 Certified Company | Chairman/Editor-in-Chief: Mohamed Issa Al Zadjali | Printed & Published by Muscat Media Group

TIMESOFOMAN.COM

FACEBOOK.COM/TIMESOFOMAN

TWITTER.COM/TIMESOFOMAN

YOUTUBE.COM/USER/TIMESOFOMANONLINE

TIMESOFOMAN.COM/WHATSAPP

TIMESOFOMAN.COM/RSS

LINKEDIN.COM/COMPANY/TIMES-OF-OMAN

INSTAGRAM.COM/TIMESOFOMAN

Scan the code
or Call 24790000

"Someday" is today!

Grow your business with Najahi
Business Banking from Bank Muscat.

Bank Muscat. Better Everyday.

CMA

Private sector workers to get health cover



MUSCAT: The Capital Market Authority (CMA) has issued an order for compulsory health insurance for workers in the private sector.

Speaking exclusively to Times of Oman, an official from the Capital Market Authority said the authority has issued an order sheet for health insurance for workers in the private sector, which includes basic coverage and additional benefits, and a special supplement for domestic workers, including housemaids, drivers and others.

The official confirmed that another health insurance document has been issued for residents and visitors to the Sultanate of Oman of all nationalities.

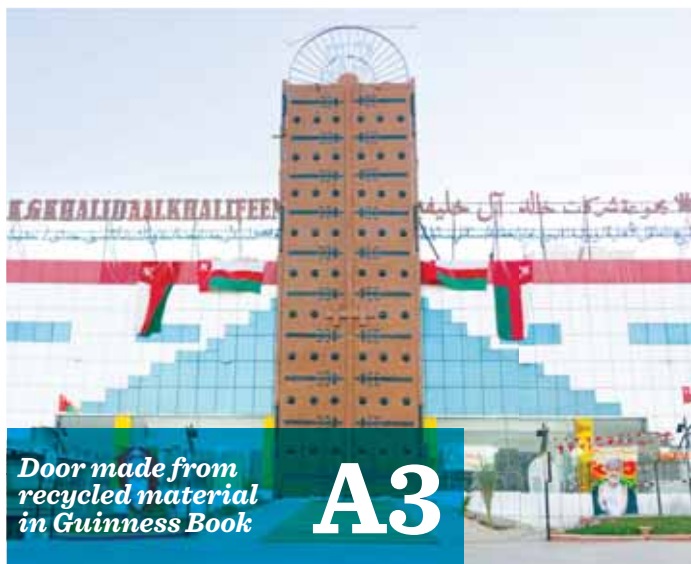
The official said "the regulations and provisions that regulate the support to complementary institutions of the health insurance system, have been issued, adding that "we are awaiting the directives of the Council of Ministers."

The official confirmed that the legislative structure to regulate the health insurance market before actual implementation of the compulsory health insurance

project for private sector, visitors and residents in the Sultanate of Oman, has been prepared.

Pointing out that health insurance rules have been issued and the insurance companies law has been amended by a royal decree, he said according to this decree, the insurance institutions in the Sultanate of Oman have been classified into three categories, namely, general insurance, life insurance and health and family insurance. He said "earlier, insurance was limited to just the general insurance and life insurance sectors.

"With regard to insurance products, the official said "we have noticed during the past five years that health insurance products have been exported by acquiring the largest share of the total insurance premiums, which in 2021 amounted to 35 percent of the total insurance portfolio, and there is also a growth in the number of insured persons, which reached 610,000, compared to 2017 when the number of insured persons was less than 400,000. This reflects the growing demand for this product." **>A5**



TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN

Campaign to detect NCDs from today

1 The national campaign for early detection of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) will be launched on Sunday, targeting everyone above 35 years of age. The Ministry of Health will launch the programme following the increasing burden of NCDs. **>A2**

WORLD

Former Pope Benedict XVI dies at 95

2 Former Pope Benedict XVI, the first German-born pope in 500 years, passed away at the age of 95 in the Vatican on Saturday. The body of the Pope Emeritus will be in Saint Peter's Basilica so the faithful can bid farewell from Monday, January 2. **>A7**

SPORTS

Ronaldo signs 2-year deal with Saudi club



3 Star striker Cristiano Ronaldo has joined the Saudi Arabian football club Al-Nassr on a two-year deal. The club announced the signing on Friday. The 37-year-old will receive \$75 million per year, making him the highest-paid footballer in history. **>A8**



An infographics on Pele

>B7

SAI RESOLVES MORE THAN 90% OF COMPLAINTS IN 2020-21

State Audit Institution received over **500** complaints during the same period

SAI pays great attention in investigating the complaints or reports received by the institution

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Institutional integrity, transparency and compliance of laws and regulations are key components in the working of the State Audit Institution (SAI).

The recent report from the SAI confirmed that more than 500 complaints were received from various quarters during the 2020-21 period and the state body have managed to resolve 91 percent of the complaints received, according to a senior official.

Mohammed bin Salem Al Abadi, Director-General of the General Directorate for the Control of Financial and Economic Units in SAI told Al Shabiba Radio: "The authority dealt with 505 complaints and reports during the year 2020-2021, and nearly 91 percent of the complaints were investigated and completed."

Recommendations

Adding further, Al Abadi said: "During the year 2021, we reviewed complaints regarding lack of compliance, financial or administrative irregularities. We issued a total of 208 reports that were communicated to the concerned departments and agreement was reached to implement the recommendations of the authority."

Al Abadi said the SAI pays great care and attention in investigating the complaints or reports received by the institution pertaining to violation of applicable laws, systems, regulations and decisions by the entities subject to audit; negligence in performing duties in connection with public works or misuse of public money.



“SAI ensures confidentiality of the complainant unless in rare cases where the identity is to be revealed

MOHAMMED BIN SALEM AL ABADI
Director-General of the General Directorate for the Control of Financial and Economic Units at SAI

The complaints can be made through various channels, including official website, smartphone application, e-mail, call centre or a visit to the headquarters or one of its branches.

He said: "SAI ensures confidentiality of the complainant unless in rare cases where the identity is to be revealed."

Among the key SAI objectives are to protect the state public funds and the private funds managed or supervised by any of the entities subject to the audit of the Institution and provide an assurance of the efficacy of internal control and audit systems and the appropriateness of financial and administrative decisions and actions and their compliance to laws, regulations and other regulatory decisions.

SAI also ensures the enforcement of laws, regulations, systems and decisions in accordance with the jurisdiction of the Institution and prevents conflicts of interest and financial or administrative violations.

The supreme audit body is also mandated to detect deficiencies or weaknesses in the applicable financial or administrative laws, regulations and systems in force and recommend measures for rectification and make institutions abide by the principles of transparency in the financial and administrative dispositions.

2023: A YEAR FULL OF HOPE AND NEW DREAMS

People share their hopes, resolutions as 2023 dawns

Times News Service

MUSCAT: As the New Year ushers in, there is a sense of hope and excitement among the people.

It is the time of the year when personal resolutions are made for the New Year even as evaluations are done to assess one's achievements in the past year based on the resolutions made at the beginning.

The past year was tough and fraught with challenges with the world recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic. However, the latter part of the year saw the opening up of the world and normalcy returning in the Sultanate of Oman.

With the New Year setting in, citizens and residents hope that the Sultanate of Oman will continue to prosper and grow under the wise leadership of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik.



Sun sets over the Hajar mountains overlooking Qurum Corniche on Saturday evening. Photo by Purushothaman

tinue to prosper and grow under the wise leadership of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik.

The prudent policies of the

government and the implementation of Oman Vision 2040 have been widely hailed and welcomed by citizens and residents. Quite

in conformity with this, they are set to usher in the New Year with their own resolutions and hopes for a better year ahead.

New year

Celebrating the arrival of the New Year, Jamal Al Masroori, director of brand and communications, Oman Tourism Development Company (Omran), said: "The new year will give us another chance to accomplish more, to transform our dreams into reality, and to work for the growth and success of my beloved country."

"On the personal front, I would like to have a better work-life balance while on the professional front, I am thrilled to be part of Oman's ever-growing tourism sector." **>A4**



OMAN

PRAYER
TIMINGS

Dhuhr.....12:15pm

Asr.....3:16pm

Maghrib.....5:36pm

Isha.....6:52pm

Fajr (Tomorrow).....5:29am

SEND US YOUR VIEWS AND COMMENTS
www.facebook.com/timesofoman

WHERE HEALING BEGINS...

APOLLO HOSPITALS OMAN – A DREAM TURNED TO REALITY

Dear All,

I trust this New Year brings you and your loved ones many blessings and many exciting experiences.

Allow me to begin by expressing, on behalf of the Apollo Hospitals Oman Family, our deepest gratitude and best wishes to our visionary leader, His Majesty Haitham bin Tariq Al Said, for making Oman a global leader and a model of peace, harmony, and progress.

At Apollo Hospital, Sultanate of Oman, we consider it our privilege to care for our patients, and I am humbled by the confidence you place in us as you make what may be the single most important decision of your life. We have remained devoted to our mission of saving lives and placed the patient at the centre of everything we do.

I would like to add that the team at Apollo Hospitals Oman, who devote so much time and energy to assist our patients in overcoming their specific health challenges, are the heart and soul of our organization which has touched over 3 million lives over the past 18 years. The lives of our patients are profoundly improved each day, thanks to the efforts of these doctors, nurses, paramedics and all other staff who combine the miracle of empathy with the marvel of technology.

After the COVID-19 pandemic scare and even this year, all of us went through a roller coaster ride. But ups and downs are part of the game and there is a lesson in all of these challenges and we will never stop learning. In the new normal, while everyone was focused on market driven cost-cutting strategies, we embarked on a new chapter of growth and launched our latest healthcare facility - Apollo Super Speciality Hospital, Al Hail (ASSH) which provides world class medical treatment in Orthopedics, Gastroenterology, Urology, Obstetrics and Gynecology amongst all other major specialties.

We are committed to the people of Oman and are absolutely confident of meeting Oman's expanding healthcare demand. We will continue to invest in integrated patient-centered care; highest standards of clinical excellence, best professionals, latest technology and world class infrastructure to ensure you have access to the best medical care at most affordable prices.

We value the opportunity to serve you as your trusted healthcare partner and will leave no stones unturned to uphold the faith and respect you have bestowed on us.

I hope and pray that the coming year brings you nothing but joy, love, and peace.

Stay Safe. Stay Healthy. Wish you and your loved ones a Happy and Successful 2023!

Warm Regards,

V.T Saileswaran
Apollo Hospitals Oman

الطوارئ
EMERGENCY

www.apollohospitalmuscat.com

CABLE

His Majesty the Sultan sends greetings to Sudan

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has sent a cable of congratulations to Lt. General Abdel Fattah Al Burhan, Chairman of the Transitional Sovereignty Council of the Republic of the Sudan on his country's Independence Day anniversary. In his cable, His Majesty the Sultan expressed his sincere greetings and wishes of good health, happiness and a long life to Lt. General Abdel Fattah Al Burhan and for his country's people achievement of aspirations of further progress and prosperity.

-ONA

Drive to detect NCDs early begins today

The Ministry of Health will launch the 'Check and assured programme' for early detection of non-communicable diseases on Sunday

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The national campaign for early detection of non-communicable diseases will be launched on Sunday, targeting everyone above 35 years of age. The Ministry of Health will launch the 'Check and assured programme' for early detection of non-communicable diseases following the increasing burden

of non-communicable diseases, which by their nature are silent and may not be accompanied by any symptom. This will enable the authorities to avoid detection of these diseases at a later stage when complications may set in. The Health Ministry stated that the examinations for early detection of diabetes, high blood pressure, chronic kidney failure, obesity and high cholesterol will be conducted at all primary health care institutions affiliated to the Ministry of Health, starting from January 1, for those above 35 years. It is also stipulated that those under that age but have symptoms of such diseases may be referred to the health institutions for evaluation and examinations, if necessary. The ministry indicated that the tests include measurement of height, weight and blood pressure, in addition to laboratory tests, a blood glucose test, a lipid profile test, a creatinine test to assess the efficiency of kidney, and a urine test. The ministry indicated that these examinations do not include those suffering from chronic diseases, and that those whose examinations show a negative result will be required to be re-examined after three years.

شركة تأجير المركبات ش.م.م.
Vehicle Leasing Company (LLC)

30 years

ELANTRA

ACCENT

i10

SANTAFE

TUCSON

CRETA

EXPLORE OMAN WITH VLC

Available on DAILY WEEKLY MONTHLY YEARLY rental basis

* Terms & Conditions apply on daily, weekly, monthly & yearly rentals

Call toll free 80050004

Whatsapp 97295158

OMR21 MILLION

Sohar Flour Mills to open grain storage silos

INAUGURATION: The opening ceremony will be presided over by Qais bin Muhammad Al Youssef, the Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion.

-ONA

MUSCAT: The Sohar Flour Mills Company will celebrate the opening of grain storage silos, built at a cost of OMR21 million, at Sohar Industrial Port on Wednesday. It is one of the major investment projects of the Oman Flour Mills Company. The opening ceremony will be presided over by Qais bin Muhammad Al Youssef, the Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion. The storage capacity of the project is 160,000 tonnes, and it is considered one of the strategic national projects. It will help increase the storage capacity of the crops to ensure that there are sufficient quantities to cover the consumption in the Sultanate of Oman for longer periods. The project stems from the responsibility assumed by Omani mills in enhancing food security and securing a strategic stock of grains.

-ONA

CHANGE TO THE BETTER

Call Center Number 24 596 999

Transfer your salary and enjoy attractive interest rates starting from



HOUSING LOAN

4.95%



PERSONAL LOAN

4.99%



CAR LOAN

4.95%



بنك ظفار
BankDhofar

For more information:
<https://bit.ly/ShortTermPersonalLoanEN>

the best bank for you 2479 111 www.bankdhofar.com



Omani palm door enters Guinness Book

The door was made on the occasion of the Sultanate’s celebrations of the 52nd Glorious National Day

Times News Service

MUSCAT: A door made from palm fronds and recycled material in the Sultanate of Oman has entered the Guinness Book of Records as the largest door made from recycled material.



Forty-two workers participated in weaving the door for six months, Khaled Al Khalifin, CEO of Oman PVC, said adding that “we started preparing for the pro-

ject two years ago, and the work continued for 6 months, including two weeks when work stretched to 24 hours each day. The door was made from 3,888 kg of wood waste (palm fronds and plastic) and 5,372 kg of scrap iron. The total weight of the door is 9,260 kg with a length of 21 meters and a width of six meters.” The door was made on the occasion of the Sultanate’s celebrations of the 52nd Glorious National Day. The shape of the door is inspired by the ancient Omani heritage. There are 2 small doors within the door inspired by the door of Nizwa Castle. The decoration of the nose of the door has been inspired by the door of the house of Sheikh Al-Allama Judge Saud bin Humaid Al Khalifan. Oman PVC is the only factory around the world that produces doors from palm leaves and recycled material.



YOUR BIGGEST ROAD HAZARD IS IN YOUR HAND

 A TIMES OF OMAN
HANDS-FREE DRIVING INITIATIVE

FriENDi mobile joins ESO for beach cleanup on International Volunteer Day



Muscat: As part of their social responsibilities, **FriENDi mobile** participated in a beach clean-up drive held to mark the International Volunteer Day in December.

Organized by the Environment Society of Oman (ESO), the clean-up event was held at the Al Hail Beach. A total of 75 participants took part in the drive and collected around 60 bags of trash that amounted to 672 Kgs of waste in weight.

FriENDi mobile supported the volunteers by providing reusable water bottles, mugs, and bags to the volunteers to help support the sustainability objectives and avoid the use of disposable plastic items.

The International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development; more commonly referred to as International Volunteer Day, is celebrated on 5 December annually. It is an international observance mandated by the UN General Assembly in 1985.





World-class Quality.

UNBELIEVABLE PRICE





YOUR HEALTH IS OUR PRIORITY TOO!



PROVIDING FLEXIBLE INSURANCE SOLUTIONS SINCE 1985
FOR ALL YOUR INSURANCE NEEDS, CHOOSE US



OMAN UNITED INSURANCE COMPANY SAOG
Post Box 1522, Ruwi, PC 112 Sultanate of Oman
24477300 | info@omanutd.com | www.omanutd.com

Oman United Insurance Co.
S.A.O.G



As we step in the year 2023, let us soak up in the pleasant weather of Muscat. Walking along the Corniche is perhaps one of the most favourite pastimes of those living in Muscat. Talking about Corniche the first place that comes to our mind is Muttrah Corniche where you can walk the complete stretch that starts from the Fish Market right up to the Al Alam Palace. The busy walkway is crowded with tourists,

expats, and locals enjoying the oceanic views and the proximity to the historic Muttrah Souq. After your walk, you can linger at one of the numerous restaurants and cafes. While walking the long stretch one also passes the majestic Muscat Gate which is also a museum. For those living in Shatti, the love street is a very popular walkway. With its beautiful palms, BBQ areas, and plenty of restaurants and cafes, it is perfect for an afternoon chill or for a leisurely evening walk. The lush green stretch situ-

ated at Al Izdihar Street, near Al Ghubra lake garden is a great place to take a stroll. Seeb Corniche is a beautifully developed 8-kilometre corniche located between Mabela and the Seeb fish market. It's been renovated and adorned with trees and flowers along the interlocked walkway which also features a kids' playground. This quiet place is a must-visit in the cool evenings. And for those who do not mind the distance, Al Hail Corniche is a perfect place for family gathering and a leisurely walk.

NEW YEAR

'Hope Oman reaps the benefit of the economic measures'

<FROM A1 Masroori said: "I hope to add value to Oman's tourism industry and I hope that 2023 will bring exciting opportunities for all of us." Luma Al Saleh, Partner & Chief Transformation Officer of IDENTITY, a leading multi-disciplinary brand building firm, was, however, slightly hesitant about her New Year's resolutions. "I am not the kind of person who writes down New Year's resolutions because by February, they all seem to disappear into thin air. However, a few days ago I was listening to Oprah Winfrey's podcast on 'intention' and decided that this year I will reframe my New Year's resolutions and listen to the power of two simple words, 'I AM'." Luma's resolutions in her own words are: "I will be gentler and kinder to myself. I will continue to try new things even if they make me feel uncomfortable at first. I will make people smile more, by simply smiling at them. I will focus my energy on people who want the



Jamal Al Masroori, Director of brand, communications, Omran

best for me. I will listen to my heart more. It talks louder than anything I have ever heard of. We only live once, so I will enjoy every moment. I will strengthen my spiritual connection with God. With all the ups and downs, I bid farewell to 2022 with gratitude and welcome 2023 with an open heart and mind." Leading environmental advocate Dana Sarhan said: "I hope



Luma Al Saleh, Partner & Chief Transformation Officer, IDENTITY

2023 will be a year when Oman flourishes and reaps the benefits of the economic measures and long term investments our government has made." She added: "As for my resolutions, I vow to continue to prioritise my health and self-preservation above all. I also hope to be able to give back to society and share some of my skills to positively enhance other people's lives."



Dana Sarhan, leading environmental advocate

Expatriate investor and businessman Manoj Didwania is "looking forward to a new and exciting year of growth for Oman's local businesses." He said: "I plan to work for the society and for the nation. We have to overcome the hurdles caused by the pandemic. With the economy growing worldwide, 2023 brings hope for business expansion and diversification as planned under Oman Vision



Manoj Didwania, expatriate investor and businessman

2040. Together, we can have a positive impact on our society." Avantika Bhattacharya, an expatriate resident and a home-maker, was also optimistic. She said: "I expect the economy to keep recovering slowly post-Covid and don't think that nations will opt for full or partial lockdowns, though it's difficult to predict." Having previously worked in the insurance sector in Oman,



Avantika Bhattacharya, expatriate resident

Avantika added: "Rising inflation will remain a worry as the general population will struggle to keep household budgets within means." On her resolutions for 2023, Avantika said: "I plan to spend less and save for the rainy day and invest in mindful eating and good health. I hope to spend quality time with family and friends and invest quality time in constructive thinking and learning."



ANTARCTICA



Omani adventurer climbs the highest peak in Antarctica

MUSCAT: An Omani adventurer managed to reach the highest peak in Antarctica, and became the first citizen to ascent the Seven Summits and Antarctica.

Omani adventurer Suleiman bin Hamoud Al Naabi managed to climb the highest peak in Antarctica, which is the Vinson summit.

It is approximately 5,000 metres above sea level. Suleiman bin Hamoud Al Naabi became the first Omani to finish the ascent of seven peaks and the Southern Pole in the same trip.

The Omani adventurer said: "The adventure began on the second of December 2022, when I was able to reach the southern frozen pole on December 16 after travelling a distance of 120 km skiing for eight days, and then completed the trip by going to

the mountain camp (Vinson) and climbed the mountain in stages, and on the 24th of December reached the summit of Mount (Vinson), the highest peak in Antarctica.

Seven World Summits

He added: "This adventure is part of the Grand Slam Explorer programme aimed at reaching Seven World Summits on every continent and the North and South Poles. This has been added to the series of achievements after representing the Sultanate of Oman in climbing the highest peak in the world, which is Everest, with a height of 8,849 metres. I reached Lhotse which is the fourth highest peak in the world, having a height of 8,516 metres, during the same trip to be the first Omani, and the

second Arab to reach both summits together in the same trip.

Continent of Europe

In addition, I reached the summit of (Aconcagua) in Argentina, with a height of 6,962 metres, and the highest mountain peak in the continent of Europe, which is (Mount Elbrus) in Russia, with a height of 5,642 metres, and the ascended the highest mountain peak in Australia, which is the summit of Mount (Kosciuszko) with a height of 2,228 metres. In addition to climbing the highest mountain peak in North America, which is the summit of Mount (Denali), with a height of 6,190 metres, and Mount (Mont Blanc) in France, with a height of 4,810 metres.

 Full story @ timesofoman.com

Social Ministry launches guide on serving people with disabilities

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Social Development launched the “Guide for Serving People with Disabilities”, which is aimed at meeting the needs of the disabled, their parents and people who attend to this segment of society. The guide comprises all the services offered by government, private and other public entities to mitigate life conditions for the disabled.

This launch took place during a ceremony organised by the ministry on the occasion of "International Day of Persons with Disabilities", which falls on 3 December and is held this year under

the theme of “Role of innovation in fuelling an accessible and equitable world”.

The ceremony was held under the auspices of Dr. Laila Ahmed Al Najjar, Minister of Social Development.

The ceremony included a visual display on the support provided by government and private companies to the disabled and the ministry's future vision for this segment. This was followed by another presentation on success stories and experiences of persons with disabilities.

The Guide provides for the pur-

chase of rehabilitation services from private centers, the issuance of car parking permits for people with disabilities, attending to medical conditions for citizens and residents, allocating a play area for children with disabilities and the procurement of prosthetic devices and different items of assistance.

The Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation dedicates university scholarships to the disabled, while the Ministry of Labour exempts them from fees charged against recruitment of non-Omani manpower. **-ONA**

Aster ROYAL HOSPITAL
We'll Treat You Well

2023

HAPPY NEW YEAR
كل عام وانتم بخير

Aster ROYAL HOSPITAL مستشفى أستير الملكي

Aster ROYAL HOSPITAL مستشفى أستير الملكي

2249 6000 | 9855 0066

www.aster.om | AsterRoyalOman

f t i n o c

DHAMANI



CMA continues to regulate health insurance market

A1 **<FROM** He explained: “In light of these indicators, the Capital Market Authority continues its efforts to regulate the health insurance market, and it has completed the legislative and regulatory structure for this sector. It is also working on the Dhamani electronic platform, which will connect various government agencies and health insurance practitioners to ensure quality of services and ease of control over them.”

"At the same time, the Authority has sought to complete the governance of the health insurance operations and companies operating in this field in a way that guarantees protection to the policyholders and provides them with the best services," he added.

The official indicated that these issuances were made under the supervision of an integrated team headed by the Capital Market Authority and in the presence of representatives from the concerned authorities, including the Ministry of Labour, Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion and the Ministry of Health.

REF: OFM/TD-22Z-029

Supplying of Gas Oil to OFM Premises

Orman Flour Mills SAGG, (OFM) invites specialized contractors to participate in our tender for "Supplying of Gas Oil to OFM Premises" as per the Scope of Service:

Tender Documents: Bidders wishing to participate in this tender are required to provide all details of their company, contact details and bank details no later than the date shown below via email: tender.bids@ormanflourmills.com

Orman Flour Mills SAGG, (OFM) will send all the tender documents to participants after receiving a tender fee depositing receipt copy via email.

Tender fee shall be deposited directly to the Orman Flour Mills SAGG bank account as mentioned below:

Account Name: Orman Flour Mills Company SAGG
Bank: Sohar International
Account Number: 0010200032407
Swift code: ISHROMRLXXXX

Tender Ref no.
Tender subject
Tender fee
Start date for tender collection
Last date for tender collection
Last date for receiving the technical queries
Closing date of the tender
Mode of payment of tender fee
Email address for communication
Mode of submission

OFM/TD-22Z-029
Supplying of Gas Oil to OFM Premises
RO/25% (non-refundable)
01/01/2023
03/01/2023
05/01/2023
08/01/2023
By Bank Transfer
tender.bids@ormanflourmills.com
All bidders are required to submit their originals addressed to the Chairman of Tender Committee and deposited in the tender box located at the reception of the Alula Investment Building on the 08 January 2023.

- Vendor selection will be based on "best and final offer". OFM is not bound to select the lowest bidder.
- All tender communication must be addressed to tender.bids@ormanflourmills.com
- Notwithstanding the specific terms in the Tender Documents, Tender fee is not refundable.
- Bids submitted shall consist of 2 separate sealed envelopes (Technical) & (Commercial), with bidder name on each and tender reference number (OFM/TD-22Z-029 (Supplying of Gas Oil to OFM Premises)).



الميرة
Al Meera

FREE
Full Screen



impeX

65"

SAVE 38%
was 209.895
OMR 129.000

تلفاز امبيكس
IMPEX 65" (65" SMART
LED TV (65" LED)

عرض
الافتتاح
Opening Offer
December 27, 2022, 11:00 AM
AL AMERAT

يسري العرض من ٢٧ ديسمبر - ١٤ يناير ٢٠٢٣
Offer Valid From 27 December - 14 Jan 2023

Condor

SAVE 33%
was 52.395
OMR 34.900

هاتف خادوم
P ام ٣

CONDOR ALUMINIUM MS
SOLAR 5000 SMART
PHONE (5+4GB)

Masafi

SAVE 31%
was 1.300
OMR 0.880

ماء مسافي
MASAFI PUR WATER TASTY 1.7L

GEEPES

SAVE 16%
was 99.900
OMR 84.600

ثلاجة باب
تفريغ اعمود
مجمدة 18 لتر
مجمدة 18 لتر
REFRIGERATOR

9

4K

LED

WiFi

Smart TV

Sunny

SAVE 21%
was 2.650
OMR 1.980

زيت ضاقي
SUNNY COOKING OIL
2L X 3/4L

Al Meera

Al Meera

Al Meera

Al Meera

Al Meera

Al Meera

Al Meera

Al Meera

Al Meera

Al Meera

Al Meera

Al Meera

Al Meera

Al Meera

Al Meera

Al Meera

Al Meera

Al Meera

Al Meera

Al Meera

Al Meera

Al Meera

Al Meera

Al Meera

Al Meera

Al Meera

Al Meera

Al Meera

Al Meera

Al Meera

Al Meera

Al Meera

Al Meera

Al Meera

Al Meera

Al Meera

Al Meera

Al Meera

Al Meera

Al Meera

Al Meera

Al Meera

Al Meera

Al Meera

Al Meera

Al Meera

Al Meera

Al Meera

Al Meera

Al Meera

Al Meera

Al Meera

Al Meera

Al Meera

Al Meera

Al Meera

Al Meera

Al Meera

Al Meera

Al Meera

Al Meera

Al Meera

Al Meera

Al Meera

Al Meera

Al Meera

Al Meera

Al Meera

Al Meera

Al Meera

Al Meera

Al Meera

Al Meera

Al Meera

Al Meera

Al Meera

Al Meera

Al Meera

Al Meera

Al Meera

Al Meera

Al Meera

Al Meera

Al Meera

Al Meera

Al Meera

Al Meera

Al Meera

Al Meera

Al Meera

Al Meera

Al Meera

Al Meera

Al Meera

Al Meera

Al Meera

Al Meera

Al Meera

Al Meera

Al Meera

Al Meera

Al Meera

Al Meera

Al Meera

Al Meera

Al Meera

Al Meera

Al Meera

Al Meera

Al Meera

Al Meera

Al Meera

Al Meera

Al Meera

Al Meera

Al Meera

Al Meera

Al Meera

Al Meera

Al Meera

Al Meera

Al Meera

Al Meera

Al Meera

Al Meera

Al Meera

Al Meera

Al Meera

AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND WELCOME NEW YEAR 2023

The Australian city of Sydney put on a night to remember with a dazzling fireworks display at the stroke of midnight. Organisers predicted that a crowd of more than a million people would gather in the city's harbour area, after two years of pandemic restrictions and muted celebrations. "We have had a couple of fairly difficult years; we're absolutely delighted this year to be able to welcome people back," city producer of major events Stephen Gilby told *The Sydney Morning Herald*. The island nations of Samoa and New Zealand celebrated as they counted down to 2023. In Auckland, large crowds thronged below the Sky Tower, where a countdown to midnight gave way to a fireworks display. An hour earlier, the Line Islands in the Kiribati atoll were among the first places on the planet to welcome the new year. —DW.



53 international travellers test positive for Covid during random sampling in India

In light of the surge in COVID-19 in some countries, hospitals across India conducted a mock drill to evaluate preparedness

NEW DELHI: A total of 53 international travellers have tested positive for COVID during the random sampling at airports across the country amounting to only 0.94 per cent of the total samples collected so far, sources said on Saturday.

"A total of 53 international travellers, tested positive for COVID-19 during 2 per cent random sampling, at airports across the country, out of 5,666 samples collected so far. That's only 0.94 per cent," sources said. This comes after Union Health Minister Manukh Mandaviya said that the country will start the 2 per cent



random testing for COVID of international travellers arriving at Indian airports.

In light of the surge in COVID-19 in some countries, hospitals across India conducted a mock drill for COVID-19. The purpose of the mock drill was to evaluate COVID-19 preparedness in terms of resources, protocol and personnel.

As there have been reports of a

surge in Covid cases in some countries, the operational readiness of health facilities is being reviewed in all States and Union Territories in case of another wave.

Earlier on December 27, the government of India has started randomly testing international passengers arriving at the airports for Coronavirus from 24 December onwards.

"The total number of interna-

tional flights screened in the last three days ie Dec 24, Dec 25 and Dec 26 is 498. The no of samples collected for COVID-19 testing is 1,780.

The cumulative number of samples collected is 3,994. The cumulative number of samples testing positive is 39 and the cumulative number of samples sent for whole genome sequencing is 39," sources told ANI. —ANI



Printed and published by:
Muscat Media Group
Post Box 770,
Postal Code: 112



Founder: Essa bin Mohammed Al Zedjali
Chairman / Editor-in-Chief: Mohamed Issa Al Zedjali
Deputy Editor-in-Chief: Anees bin Essa Al Zedjali
Chief Executive Officer: Ahmed Essa Al Zedjali

EDITORIAL: Telephone: 24726666, Fax: 24813153, E-mail: editor@timesofoman.com
ADVERTISING: Telephone: 24726666, Fax: 24812624, E-mail: advertising@timesofoman.com
CIRCULATION: Telephone: 24726666, Fax: 24818270, E-mail: circulation@timesofoman.com

ECONOMY



Sri Lanka stares at food shortage; President asks for help, support

COLOMBO: The critical situation of the currency crisis in Sri Lanka has resulted in political, economic and social turmoil. Further, this currency collapse has resulted in a rise in food prices by 100 per cent in two years. Amid all this, President Ranil Wickremesinghe has sought support, The Island Online reported.

In Sri Lanka around 40 per cent of households depend on agriculture. And two out of ten homes have suffered income reduction from June to December 2022. And to recover from the income reduction one out of two households use negative coping mechanisms like loans to cope with the lack of food or money to buy it, according to The Island Online English-language daily in Sri Lanka. And in addition to this, the salaries and incomes in the country are not able to cope making it difficult to afford food. Further, The Island Online report states that in Sri Lanka it typically takes about two years to recover from a currency crisis.

"Immediate action to provide farmers with quality seeds, fertilisers and pesticides will enable them to protect their livelihoods and feed their communities. It is also critical to provide the most vulnerable farmers, livestock keepers and fishers with cash assistance to enable them to restore their productive assets and fast-track their recovery," an FAO report said.

The production in agriculture saw a slump since mid-2021. As the country faces major shortages of fertilizers and other essential production inputs; livestock keepers cannot access feed and

basic veterinary supplies, and fishermen cannot access fuel for motorised boats, The Island Online reported.

The Island Online quoted president Wickremesinghe who on December 16 this year requested support from everyone keeping aside political differences. He emphasized that everyone should forget their differences and dedicate themselves to building the country's economy.

He said that "In the year 2023, there is a possibility of a food shortage. We started the food security program to deal with that. I suggest that a review of the implementation of this program be done again in each divisional secretariat. Here you can get new data. Accordingly, we are proceeding with the food security program in a formal manner. This program will not end after 2023. We will continue to do so. Local councils have representatives from each political party. But we all have to implement this program together," according to The Island Online report.

Wickremesinghe also mentioned that they have been able to provide fertilisers needed by the farmers. And with the success of the crop season, they have a surplus of rice. Although they had identified the problems like insufficient storage facilities.

"We are also working to solve those problems. At the same time, we have taken measures to control the price of paddy," he added. These steps may result in the recovery of the country from food shortages and economic problems.

—ANI

CHALLENGES AHEAD

Europe-ASEAN relations: What to expect in 2023

BRUSSELS: On December 14, leaders from most European and Southeast Asian countries met for a summit in Brussels for the first time. It was a symbolic display of how far relations have improved in the 45 years of relations between the EU and the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

Relations were elevated to a "strategic partnership" in late 2020 and bilateral trade in goods increased by nearly 14% in 2021. And having ended 2022 on a high note, "policymakers in both regions are expected to keep up the upbeat tempo in relations both in terms of content and high-level meetings," said Shada Islam, a Brussels-based commentator on European Union affairs.

Many within Brussels are optimistic that Indonesia, which takes over the annually-rotating chair of the ASEAN bloc next year, will be a reliable partner. It will be the first democracy to lead the bloc for several years, and Indonesian

President Joko Widodo has moved to improve his country's relations with the West since entering office in 2014.

"Indonesia's leadership of ASEAN will likely ensure continuity in the current positive trend of EU-ASEAN relations," said William Yuen Yee, a research assistant with the Columbia-Harvard China and the World Program.

The Indonesian foreign minister, Retno Marsudi, has vowed to make ASEAN more unified and involved as an international actor. And Jakarta's historic policy of non-alignment means that it views the EU as an essential partner, especially amid rising tensions between the US and China.

However, next year could be far more challenging for relations than 2022 was. ASEAN recently signed a Treaty of Amity and Cooperation with Ukraine but many of the region's governments want to take no sides in the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

Although Singapore imposed its



own sanctions on Moscow, communist Laos and Vietnam have consistently abstained from all UN General Assembly condemnations of Russia's actions, while several others have occasionally abstained.

Many within the EU feel that Southeast Asian countries need to be more vocal about the war and this will remain a feature of diplomacy in 2023, especially as European officials draw parallels to the national sovereignty threat posed by China to several Southeast Asian countries who contest

territory with Beijing in the South China Sea.

The Ukraine War "is a stark reminder that today, in this world of interdependencies, there is no such thing as a European problem, or an Asian problem either," Ursula von der Leyen, the European Commission president, said in a statement at the closing of the recent EU-ASEAN Summit in Brussels.

"All the challenges we face today are of global nature and therefore affect all of us. You, ASEAN, know what is at stake," she added.

Yet it's unlikely that Southeast Asian governments will alter their position on the Ukraine War in 2023. The same goes for the ongoing Myanmar crisis.

As ASEAN chair next year, Indonesia has vowed to take a harsher stance against the military junta that took control of Myanmar in early 2021 and precipitated a national crisis. But, like its predecessors in the role, Jakarta may struggle to find accord among all other ASEAN members, and it's unclear what else the bloc can do to pressure the junta towards peace and normalcy.

The EU is also running out of options over Myanmar. In November, it imposed its fifth round of sanctions against junta officials and aligned businesses, but analysts reckon there aren't many more people or companies left to sanction.

Suspending Myanmar's trade privileges is an alternative, but Brussels thinks that would disproportionately impact poor people in

the country, while there remains no great enthusiasm to formally recognize the National Unity Government (NUG), Myanmar's anti-junta shadow government.

"Brussels has learned from experience not to allow the deteriorating human rights situation in Myanmar to impact on its plans for upgrading overall EU-ASEAN ties," said Islam.

Next year could also be a tricky one for EU diplomacy as Cambodia and Thailand are due to hold general elections that many believe won't be conducted freely or fairly.

In 2020, the EU suspended a fifth of Cambodia's trade privileges over democratic deterioration in the country. It only normalised diplomacy with Thailand after a semi-fair election in 2018. However, cooperation with both countries would suffer if Brussels feels the need to criticise the conduct of the ballots. —DW

مستشفى الحياة الدولي

AL HAYAT INTERNATIONAL HOSPITAL

Quality Care Without Compromise

Normal Delivery 250 OMR

C-Section Delivery 500 OMR

* Additional 10 OMR for Baby Vaccination

2200 4000 9972 8290 7919 1834

Former Pope Benedict XVI dies at 95

The Vatican said that “the body of the Pope Emeritus will be in Saint Peter’s Basilica so the faithful can bid farewell” from Monday, January 2

VATICAN CITY: Ex-Pope Benedict XVI, the first German-born pope in 500 years, passed away at the age of 95 in the Vatican on Saturday. Previously, his successor Pope Francis warned that Benedict was “very ill.”

“With sorrow I inform you that the Pope Emeritus, Benedict XVI, passed away today at 9:34 in the Mater Ecclesiae Monastery in the Vatican,” the Vatican announced.

The Vatican added that “the body of the Pope Emeritus will be in Saint Peter’s Basilica so the faithful can bid farewell” from Monday, January 2. Pope Francis is due to lead the service for his predecessor in St. Peter’s Square on Thursday.

Earlier this week, Francis called for prayers to “console [Benedict]



and to sustain him in this witness of love for the Church, until the end.”

World reacts to former Pope’s passing

“As a ‘German’ pope, Benedict XVI was a special church leader for many, not only this country,” German Chancellor Olaf Scholz wrote on Twitter. “The world has lost a formative figure of the Catholic Church, an argumentative personality and a clever theologian.”

“My thoughts are with Pope

Francis,” Scholz added.

French President Emmanuel Macron said his thoughts were with “the Catholics of France and around the world, bereaved by the departure of His Holiness Benedict XVI, who worked with soul and intelligence for a more fraternal world.”

Meanwhile, UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak said he was “saddened” to learn of Benedict’s passing, calling his visit to the UK in 2010 “an historic moment for

both Catholics and non-Catholics throughout our country.”

Italy’s far-right Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni called Benedict, “A Christian, a pastor, a theologian: a great man whom history will not forget.”

Religious leaders mourn loss

The head of the German Bishops’ Conference, Bishop Georg Bätzing, paid tribute to the late pope as an “impressive theologian and an

experienced pastor.”

“We are mourning a personality who imparted hope and direction to the church even in difficult times.”

Bätzing said that the German Catholic Church was particularly grateful for Benedict, “he was born in our country, here was his home, here he helped shape Church life as a theological teacher and a bishop.”

German Finance Minister Christian Lindner also commemorated Benedict on Twitter, calling

him a “historical figure and a not uncontroversial intellectual.”

“But today we commemorate him as a human being,” he added.

Markus Söder, state premier of Benedict’s home region Bavaria, called the former pope a “strong representative of the Catholic Church,” who “always carried his homeland in his heart.”

Söder said the loss of Benedict was the loss of one of the world’s most influential theologians who had ruled the Catholic Church during “turbulent and challenging times.”

Who was Pope Benedict?

Benedict — whose birth name was Joseph Ratzinger — stepped down from the role in 2013, citing his declining health. He was the first pope to resign since the Middle Ages.

The Bavarian-born Ratzinger was named pope in 2005. He had previously served as the Archbishop of Munich before leaving Germany to head the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith (CDF) in 1982.

He was a critic of environmental destruction and the “cruelty of capitalism” but was a staunch conservative on religious matters.

However, he also came under fire for the scandals that took place in the German Catholic Church under his watch. Earlier this year, he admitted to giving a false statement during an investigation into the abuse scandal. -DW

ON SATURDAY MORNING

N. Korea fires three short-range ballistic missiles

PYONGYANG: North Korea fired three short-range ballistic missiles towards its eastern waters on Saturday, ending a year of unprecedented missile tests with yet another one.

South Korea’s Joint Chiefs of Staff said in a statement it had identified the three launches on Saturday morning coming from a location south of Pyongyang.

Sea of Japan

According to the military, the missiles travelled around 350 kilometres (217 miles) before crashing into the Sea of Japan, also known as the East Sea.

South Korea’s military condemned the launches as a “grave provocation that undermines peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula as well as the international community.”

The statement also called it a violation UN Security Council resolution, which prohibits North Korea from testing ballistic missiles. Some ballistic missiles are capable of carrying nuclear war-



heads. The North Korean launches come a day after South Korea tested a solid-fueled rocket. Seoul intends to utilise the rocket to

launch its first spy satellite in the coming years.

Getting its own satellite for military spying is also a priority

for North Korea.

Korean peninsula

Tensions were already soaring in the Korean peninsula when the North sent five drones that flew above various South Korean cities, including Seoul, on Monday.

South Korea scrambled fighter jets and attack helicopters in response. Military officials later apologised for their inability to shoot down the drones.

A day later, Seoul sent three of its own drones across the border in retaliation.

South Korean president takes tough stance

South Korean President Yoon Suk-yeol strongly criticised the military’s handling of the incursions.

President Yoon’s conservative government has promised a tougher stance toward the North since coming to power in May.

He recently said that North Korea is not a source of fear because of its nuclear weapons, and its

provocations must be met with retaliation. This comes as full-scale joint military exercises between the US and South Korea resumed this year under Yoon.

Pyongyang responded by saying that its recent missile launches were in retaliation to the joint military exercises, which the isolated country called a rehearsal for invasion.

Pyongyang outlines goals

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and other senior party leaders are at a major party meeting in Pyongyang currently detailing their policy objectives for 2023.

Key areas include diplomacy, security, and the economy in the coming year.

Kim stated earlier this year that he wanted his nation to possess the most powerful nuclear arsenal and declared that the North was an “irreversible” nuclear state.

In recent months, experts have warned that Pyongyang might be planning to conduct its seventh nuclear bomb test. -DW

FORMER-BRAZIL PRESIDENT

Jair Bolsonaro lands in Florida

FLORIDA: Outgoing Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro landed in Florida on Friday, where he is expected to stay for the last day of his official term, skipping the inauguration of his rival and successor Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva who is set to take office on Sunday.

Bolsonaro left for the US on an Air Force plane around 2:00 pm, local media reported.

According to the flight monitoring website Flightaware, the same military aircraft, designated by the code BRS1, landed in Orlando, Florida little after 2:00 am GMT on Saturday.

Although Bolsonaro’s travel plans have not been made public, his security detail was already in place in Florida.

Before leaving, he addressed his followers in a live broadcast on his social networks.

A teary-eyes Bolsonaro said in the four years of his government he gave “the best of himself.”

-DW

ENDEAVOUR

A planter in India single-handedly revitalises local economy

GUWAHATI : Hangthing Lusha, a native of Noklak, Nagaland, is credited with single-handedly revitalising the local economy within his community and spreading his ideas among fellow planters, according to a research-based storytelling platform The Borderlens.

Writing for Guwahati-based platform The Borderlens, author Jayant Ahuja tells a tale about a Nagaland man who started from scratch to build three thriving nurseries of different varieties, and ever-evolving fish ponds and nurseries which cater to markets across the border in Myanmar.

Hangthing was ten years old when he had a vision of cultivating fruit crops. His journey started with gathering the seeds of the fruits that were being thrown out by the shopkeepers. Using what little resources he possessed,

Hangthing began his nursery in 1988, despite lacking the necessary technical knowledge.

At the beginning of his endeavour, he attempted a variety of methodologies, including varying the time of sowing, the intervals between watering and the depth of seeding. But even after seven years, he was unable to earn living out of it. “The crop never produced an amount that was satisfactory enough to compete with the fruits that were transported to the Noklak market from Dimapur and Assam,” writes Jayant Ahuja.

Even Hangthing’s plans to produce fruit crops in the Noklak paddy fields were not received well as uncertainty prevailed among local farmers when it came to planting fruit trees and spice shrubs. Driven by his ambition to help his poverty-stricken family, he kept

trying despite his initial failures.

“His (Hangthing) hard labour and never giving up attitude did bear fruit. Hangthing remembers with fondness the time he sold his first sapling to the soil department for a mere twelve rupees. Those first 12 rupees he made felt like millions of dollars. His character is demonstrated by his decision to reinvest those 12 rupees in the nursery,” writes Jayant Ahuja.

Over time, Hangthing grew lit-tchi trees, coffee plants, and even cardamom at his nursery.

“In the beginning, he sold his seedlings, young fruit trees, and fruits straight from his nursery. Soon after, he reached out to serve the surrounding community. He has just lately diverged into the honey business, and he sells his product straight to the state government,” writes Jayant Ahuja.

“Aside from local customers, Hangthing also sells his fish and fish seeds to customers in Myanmar. He was always generous despite his business focus. He advised innumerable farmers on how to establish fruit tree orchards, and he even gave out saplings to the needy. With his help, Noklak now has three successful nurseries, up from just one before,” he adds.

According to Jayant, Hangthing success in any endeavour drove him to teach others how to achieve the same level of achievement.

Hangthing, who came from a poor family, now earns 4-5 lakhs per year, up from 500 rupees per month after seven years of no income. His profits lifted his family out of poverty and elevated them to the comfortable upper middle class, according to The Borderlens. -ANI



SPORTS

Ronaldo signs 2-year deal with Saudi club

The 37-year-old will receive \$75 million per year, making him the highest-paid footballer in history

RIYADH : Star striker Cristiano Ronaldo has joined the Saudi Arabian football club Al-Nassr on a two-year deal. The club announced the signing on Friday, as per ESPN. The 37-year-old will receive \$75 million per year, making him the highest-paid footballer in history. "I am excited to experience a new football league in a different country," Ronaldo said in Al-Nassr's statement announcing the deal as quoted by ESPN. "The vision of what Al Nassr are doing and developing in Saudi Arabia both in terms of men's and women's football is very inspiring. We can see from Saudi Arabia's recent performance at the World Cup that this is a country with big football ambitions and a lot of potentials."



"I am fortunate that I have won everything I set out to win in European football and feel now that this is the right moment to share my experience in Asia. I am looking forward to joining my new teammates and together with them help the Club to achieve success." Ronaldo and his former club Manchester United had agreed to terminate his deal last month after his controversial TV interview in which he fired shots at the club, its manager Erik Ten Hag and its owners, the Glazers family. Ronaldo criticized the club and said he has "no respect" for its manager Ten Hag. The Portugal star was earlier

this month seen training alone at his former club Real Madrid's training ground, as he prepared himself to make a decision on his future. Ronaldo experienced mixed fortunes in the 2022 FIFA World Cup despite becoming the only player ever to score in five World Cups. The No 7 shockingly came as a second-half substitute in Portugal's 1-0 loss to Morocco in the quarters that ended his WC dream. He was reluctant to give any details about his future at international level following the defeat, as he said that he will "never turn my back on my teammates and my country", but also added that he

would "let time be a good adviser and allow everyone to draw their own conclusions". Earlier this month, Manchester United boss Ten Hag said that the club was "looking to the future" after Ronaldo's departure and he was "gone and it's the past". Al-Nassr is based in Riyadh and competes in Saudi Pro League. In the nation's top-flight club football, it has the second-highest amount of league titles. "This is more than history in the making," Al-Nassr president Musalli Almuammar said. "This is a signing that will not only inspire our club to achieve even greater success but inspire our league, our nation and future generations, boys and girls to be the best version of themselves." "He is a special footballer and a special person whose impact is felt far beyond football. Cristiano is joining a club with big ambitions, a competitive club amongst the very best in Asia and will be welcomed to a country that is making massive progress on and off the pitch with opportunities for all." "But first and foremost, we can't wait to see him in the number 7 shirt of Al Nassr doing what he does best, scoring goals, winning titles and bringing joy to those who love the beautiful game," concluded the club Musalli. -ANI

Liverpool defeat Leicester City 2-1



LIVERPOOL : Two own goals from Wout Faes helped Liverpool secure a 2-1 win over Leicester City at home on Friday in their Premier League match, which helped Reds move two points of fourth place in the points table. This was Reds' first outing at Anfield after the World Cup and it got off to a nightmarish start as Kiernan Dewsbury-Hall overcame Liverpool's defences to give his side an early 4th-minute lead, bumping a great finish past Alisson Becker. However, after the 30-minute mark, the visitors' centre-back Liverpool ended up gifting two goals to Liverpool in the 38th minute and 45th minute. First, he slashed Trent Alexander's cross into his own goal. Then seven minutes later, after Darwin Nunez's chip hit the post,

Faes committed another massive blunder by sending the ball into his own team's net again. Due to this, the scoreline read 2-1 in favour of Liverpool at half-time. In the second half, both sides had chances to score as Jordan Henderson, and Mohammed Salah getting attempts to score, but it was those two own goals that sealed the fate of both sides. Liverpool is at 6th place with 28 points to their name. They have won eight of their 16 matches, lost and drawn four each. Leicester on the other hand are at 13th place, with 17 points. They have won five matches out of 17, lost 10 and drawn two. Liverpool will play Brentford on January 2 while Leicester will play Fulham on January 3. -ANI

ACCIDENT

'Pant was going to surprise his mother'

ROORKEE : India star cricketer Rishabh Pant was on his way to surprise his mother ahead of New Year when he met with the accident on the Delhi-Dehradun highway, Dr Sushil Nagar of the Saksham Hospital, where he was rushed to, has revealed. Pant escaped the near-fatal accident on Friday with burn injuries among others that will require

plastic surgeries and he could be airlifted to Delhi if required. Nagar revealed that the player was headed home to pay the surprise visit to his mother and was returning from Delhi to Roorkee when his car collided with the divider on the Narsan border near Hammadpur Jhal around 5.30 am. "When he was admitted here, he was critical. But our team re-

sponded with quick treatment. We also did his X-Rays, there was no bone injuries rather a ligament injury in his right knee, which will become more clear after MRI reports," Nagar told ANI. "There were two open wounds on forehead and abrasions on his waist. There was nothing life-threatening. He was conscious and talking well."

CONDOLENCES

Messi, Ronaldo, Neymar pay rich tributes to Pele

NEW DELHI : Cristiano Ronaldo, Neymar, Kylian Mbappe, Lionel Messi and other football stars paid rich condolences to Brazilian football legend Pele who passed away at the age of 82 and said he was a role model whose legacy will be never forgotten. Sportspersons, especially footballers and football clubs all around the world have expressed their grief on 'Black Pearl's death. Pele lost a long battle against cancer that had spread to several organs of his body. The Brazilian was a role model for players including superstars like Ronaldo and Neymar. Portugal's star footballer Cristiano Ronaldo said Pele will never be forgotten. "My deep condolences to all of Brazil, and in particular to the family of Edson Arantes do Nascimento. A mere 'goodbye' to the eternal King Pele will never be enough to express the pain that the entire football world is currently embracing. An inspiration to so many millions, a reference yesterday, today and forever. The love you always showed me was reciprocated in every moment we shared even from distance. He will never be forgotten and his memory will live forever in each and every one of us football lovers. Rest in peace King Pele," Ronaldo posted on Instagram. England player Harry Maguire said Pele was a role model both on and off the pitch. "Rest in peace Pele, one of the greatest ever. What a role model on and off the pitch. Winner of 3 World Cups, unbelievable," Maguire said. FIFA World Cup 2022 Golden Boot winner Kylian Mbappe took to Instagram and posted, "The king of football has left us but his legacy will never be



forgotten. RIP KING..." FIFA 2022 World Cup winner and Argentina's star player Lionel Messi posted on Instagram, "Rest in peace." "We are deeply saddened to hear of the passing of Pele, an extraordinarily gifted footballer who transcended our sport and inspired millions throughout his remarkable career. Our thoughts and sincere condolences go to Pele's family and friends," Premier League tweeted. "Pele broke our hearts in 1958 to score his first World Cup goal to knock Cymru out. Today our hearts are broken again. A true sporting legend. Our thoughts are with the people of Brazil and the world football family. Gorffwys Mewn Heddd, Pele," Football Association of Wales (FA WALES) tweeted. Brazil's star footballer Casemiro took to Instagram and posted, "Rest in peace King Pele Thank you for the glory you gave to Brazil and football. Your legacy is eternal." "Before Pele, 10 was just a number. I've read this phrase somewhere, at some point in my life. But this sentence, beautiful, is incomplete. I would say before Pele football was just a sport. Pele

has changed it all. He turned football into art, into entertainment. Gave voice to the poor, blacks and mostly: Gave visibility to Brazil. Soccer and Brazil have raised their status thanks to the King! He's gone but his magic remains. Pele is FOREVER!!" Neymar JR posted on Instagram. Indian cricketer Sachin Tendulkar said Pele's legacy will live forever. "A great loss to not just football but to the whole world of sports. There will never be another! Your legacy will live on forever. Rest in Peace Pele!" Tendulkar said in a tweet. A few days back, health condition of Pele, whose real name was Edson Arantes do Nascimento, deteriorated, and doctors said he needed care for renal and cardiac dysfunction. He was also undergoing treatment for a respiratory infection that was aggravated by COVID-19. Pele is considered as one of the greatest footballer of all time. He is the only player to have won three World Cup titles, having won the top prize in football in 1958, 1962 and 1970. He also won numerous trophies at the club and country level. -ANI

BAD LIGHT

NZ-Pakistan first Test ends in a draw

KARACHI: The first Test between Pakistan and New Zealand ended in a draw after bad light put an end to New Zealand's chase of a modest 138 runs at Karachi on Friday. Pakistan resumed the fifth day of play at 77/2, with Imam-ul-Haq (45*) and Nauman Ali (4*) at the crease. Michael Bracewell struck early for Kiwis, dismissing Nauman for four, reducing Pakistan to 82/3. Spinner Ish Sodhi delivered the biggest blow by trapping Babar Azam for 14. Pakistan was 100/4. Sarfaraz Ahmed and Imam-ul-Haq formed an 85-run stand.

Ahmed continued his good run with the bat, smashing another half-century in the second innings of his return Test. Sodhi ended the partnership dismissing Sarfaraz for 53 off 76 balls. He also dismissed Agha Salman (4) and deprived Imam of his century, sending him back for 96 off 206 balls. Saud Shakeel and Mohammad Wasim then stitched a stand to take the hosts beyond 250-run mark. Sodhi claimed his sixth wicket trapping Wasim for a well-made 43. Shakeel reached his fifth Test half-century. Pakistan declared their innings

at 311/8. They had a lead of 137 runs and gave NZ a modest total of 138 runs to chase. Ish Sodhi was the pick of the bowlers for the Kiwis, taking 6/86. Bracewell also took two wickets. Pakistani spinner Abrar Ahmed continued his fine run, dismissing Bracewell for just three runs. Devon Conway and Tom Latham pushed the accelerator, taking the team beyond the 50-run mark before bad light put an end to their chase and both teams shook hands to draw the match. NZ finished at 61/1 in 7.3 overs, with Conway (18*) and Latham (35*). -ANI



GMAX60
MAXimum Power. MAXimum Cooling.



MAX Power - Stable Operation at high temperature
High-efficiency heat dissipation technology, results in stable cooling even at 55°C....



MAX Guard - 5 Anti-corrosion Measures
5 Anti-corrosion measures, for all-round protection. Longerservice life and less maintenance.



MAX Safety
The Main board and electric box is enclosed in fire proof material for additional safety.

GS18GMAX60 18000 BTU EER: 11.70	GS24GMAX60 22178 BTU EER: 11.60	GS26GMAX60 24000 BTU EER: 12.00	GS30GMAX60 27500 BTU EER: 11.96
--	--	--	--



C.R. No. 1009680
MUSCAT
96742452
Available at
Major Hypermarkets & Electronics Retailers

SALALAH
94048494

www.genetco.net
@GenetcoOman
@GenetcoOman
Genetco Oman

ELECTRICITY GENERATION

The total electricity generation in the Sultanate of Oman increased by 1.4 per cent to reach 35,961.6 gigawatt hours at the end of October 2022 compared to 35,460.1 gigawatts in the same period in 2021.

MARKET
BUSINESS & FINANCE



INTEGRATED GAS COMPANY

The Ministry of Finance (MoF) endorsing its Articles of Association and financial bylaw, has issued a decision to establish an Integrated Gas Company (IGC). The Ministry of Finance explained that Integrated Gas Company is a state-owned enterprise.

MSX trading value soars by 186% to OMR28.9mn in weekly trade

In the last week of 2022, the MSX witnessed a positive performance, with an increase in the trading value, the number of executed transactions, the main index, sectoral indices, and the market value, which last week recorded gains of about OMR3.2 million, concluding the 2021 trading at OMR23.73 billion

MUSCAT: The total trading value on the Muscat Stock Exchange (MSX) increased to OMR28.9 million last week, compared to about OMR10.1 million in the previous week, recording an increase of more than 186 per cent.

In the last week of 2022, the MSX witnessed a positive performance, with an increase in the trading value, the number of executed transactions, the main index, sectoral indices, and the market value, which last week recorded gains of about OMR3.2 million, concluding the 2021 trading at OMR23.73 billion.

These gains came amid positive expectations that the Muscat Stock Exchange will witness a good performance during the year 2023, supported by the good economic indicators in the Sultanate of Oman, government spending, and the rise in profits of public shareholding companies listed on the stock exchange, whose pre-

liminary results are expected to appear within the next few days.

During the past week, investors focused on the shares of a number of companies that they considered attractive and with good returns. This was reflected in the number of executed deals, which rose to 3,319 deals, compared to 1,969 deals in the previous week.

Last week, the main index of the Stock Exchange rose 19 points and closed at 4,857 points, the financial sector index recorded the highest gains, up 81 points, the industry sector index rose 26 points, the Sharia index rose by 6 points, and the services sector index recorded a slight increase by one point.

Bank Muscat topped the most heavily traded companies in terms of turnover at OMR12.3 million, representing 42.8 per cent of the total turnover. Oman Arab Bank (OAB) came next with transactions amounting to about OMR1.5 million and Omantel,



witnessed transactions worth OMR1,443,000, representing 4.9 per cent of the total turnover.

Last week, the prices of 32 securities rose, compared to 21 securities whose prices declined, and 17 securities that maintained their previous levels.

The share of Takaful Oman Insurance recorded the highest rise, up by 13.9 per cent, and closed at 49 baisas. The share of Dhofar Beverages and Food Stuff rose by 13.7 per cent and closed at 240 baisas. The share of Dhofar Generating Electricity rose to 58 baisas, up by 13.7 per cent as well while SMN Power Holding Company increased by 12.2 per cent and closed at 46 bai-

sas, and Al-Saffa Foods rose by 11.7 per cent and closed at 256 baisas.

Raysut Cement shares led the way, declining by 8.7 per cent and closing at 157 baisas, Dhofar Food and Investment shares declined by 5.3 per cent and closed at 71 baisas, and Al Jazeera Steel Products fell by 3.8 per cent and closed at 225 baisas.

Vision Insurance Company said that the extraordinary general assembly of the company, which was held on December 26, 2022, approved a proposal to dissolve and merge the company with the Omani Qatari Insurance Company through consolidation, noting that the assembly authorised the company's board of directors to take all

necessary measures to implement the proposed merger.

The Omani Qatari Insurance Company said that the extraordinary general assembly of the company, which was held on December 27, approved the proposal to merge with the Vision Insurance Company, and also agreed to increase the company's authorised capital from OMR20 million to OMR30 million, and to increase the company's issued capital from OMR10 million to a maximum of OMR22 million, allocating the increase shares in favour of Qatar Insurance Company and Al Hosn Investment Company at an issuance price of 196 baisas per share and amending

Article 5 of the company's Articles of Association regarding the company's capital after completing the merger procedures and registering the company's new capital.

Also, during the past week, the Omani National Engineering and Investment Company said that Majan Electricity Company had awarded it a contract to re-establish the 33-kilovolt part of the old main Ibri station in Al-Dhahirah Governorate and convert the 33-kilovolt feeders affiliated to it at an amount of OMR2.7 million, noting that the project implementation period is approximately 17 months starting from the date of receiving the work order. - OMA

STATISTICS

Broad money supply grows 0.22% to OMR20 billion

MUSCAT: The broad money supply in Oman grew by 0.22 per cent on an annual basis to reach more than OMR20 billion at the end of October 2022.

The monthly statistical bulletin issued by the Central Bank of Oman (CBO) indicated that the rise in broad money was attributed to the increase in quasi-money by 0.7 per cent, which consists of the sum of savings deposits and term deposits in Rial Omani plus certificates of deposit issued by banks in addition to margin accounts and all foreign currency deposits with the banking sector.

Cash on hand decreased by 6.9 per cent while demand deposits increased by 0.8 per cent at the end of October 2022, compared to the same period in 2021.

With regard to the interest rate structure of conventional commercial banks, the weighted average interest rate on deposits in Omani rials recorded a slight decrease from 2.001 per cent in October 2021 to 1.907 per cent in October 2022.



The weighted average interest rate on loans in Omani rials decreased from 5.513 per cent at the end of October 2022 to 5.383 per cent over the same period in 2021.

The average interest rates in the interbank lending market for one night recorded an increase of 3.299 per cent at the end of October 2022, compared to 0.447 per

cent in the same period of October 2021.

This came as a result of the increase in the weighted average interest rate on repurchase operations to reach 3.750 per cent, compared to 0.5 per cent during the same period last year, in line with the policies of the US Federal Reserve. - OMA

CENTRAL BANK OF OMAN

CBO introduces Wakala Money Market liquidity instrument

MUSCAT: The Central Bank of Oman (CBO) has introduced the Wakala Money Market instrument as of 28 December 2022, to support the effective management of liquidity by Islamic banks and Islamic banking windows in the Sultanate of Oman.

This product is part of several Islamic liquidity management instruments that the Central Bank of Oman has developed for Islamic banking entities in Oman, which shall be introduced in phases, both for absorbing excess liquidity and for providing liquidity support.

Under the Wakala money market product, Islamic banking enti-

ties will place funds with the Central Bank in US Dollar (USD) for a minimum duration of one day to a maximum of 3 months, which shall be managed and invested by CBO in Sharia-compliant instruments.

Furthermore, to develop these

liquidity management instruments, the Central Bank of Oman has worked closely with its High Sharia Supervisory Authority (HSSA), which has reviewed and approved all the product structures and relevant contracts. - OMA

5G helped Omantel break barriers



Can you tell us about Omantel's 5G journey so far? Has 5G delivered on your expectations? Omantel embarked on the 5G journey early on. We were among the first few operators globally who recognized the capabilities of this new technology and carved out a roadmap suitable for our strategic goals. We realized that 5G has a potential to bridge the gaps that existed in our markets and planned for it. Fixed Wireless Access (FWA) was our first service over 5G which was launched in 2019. Since then we have developed more than 100,000 FWA connections over 5G. Later in 2020, we launched 5G mobility services and that also saw a major uptake. Currently, we are number one operator in GCC in terms of 5G traffic ratio which has already surpassed 50% and we can say 5G has become a dominant technology for Omantel within 3 years of operation which is an achievement and testament of our belief and foresight.

How do you see the contribution of 5G to business success? And how does that impacted Omantel's top and bottom line? If you take a closer look, 5G is a very versatile technology which is capable of creating newer use cases for many practical scenarios. However, it is one thing to have a capability and another on how to use it to your advantage. At Omantel, from early on our effort has been to utilize 5G's diverse capabilities to the scenarios that are applicable to our market. 5G FWA was one such use case which bridged the gap between demand of high speed broadband from new areas and supply constraints from traditional technologies such as DSL or fiber. Today, majority of our 5G traffic is generated from home FWA connections. Especially during covid-19 pandemic 5G helped us in catering to the exceptionally high demand for high speed connections in a way that wouldn't have been possible otherwise. In hindsight, an early start with 5G helped us navigate the covid pandemic and break the barriers.

We saw Omantel launching cloud gaming earlier this year, what are some of the new services that consumers in Oman can expect from you? At Omantel, we are always on the look out for innovations, whether it is for end users or within our network operations. As you rightly pointed out, cloud gaming was one of the innovative service we started offering to our

customers earlier this year, we are aware of diverse capabilities of 5G and its support to bring innovative services that are possible over high speed, low latency and highly reliable 5G connections and are working with multiple partners to bring new services to the users in Oman.

For advanced services, a consistent high level of experience is a must. How is Omantel planning to ensure high level of experience to its subscribers? And can you share us Omantel next steps for 5G network construction? Yes, you are right, a consistent high level of experience is a must for innovative services to thrive and grow. We are taking many actions to improve customer experience, for example one of the benchmark we have set for ourselves is to provide ubiquitous 5G coverage with 100Mbps speed to every user. We will be doing that by using C-Band as a primary band for 5G while extending the coverage with use of 2.1G and provide enhanced capacity with the use of 2.3 & 2.6G bands. We are also working towards launching 5G SA network soon which will make low latency and ultra-reliability scenarios possible in near future.

The pandemic has been going on for a long time. As a great telecom operator, can you share how Omantel copes with the social challenges posed by the pandemic? As you know, Covid pandemic shook the world without any warning signs. It changed telecom services consumption habits of a typical users overnight. All of a sudden, our homes didn't remain just homes, it became our offices, our schools and even our playgrounds. All of it put a massive strain on telecom networks. Our networks required re-planning to support these changed behaviors. As I mentioned above, 5G helped us navigate these challenges in a great way. We could get students and professional online with reliable 5G connections within hours. Going forward, we are focusing our efforts to migrate our legacy copper and 4G connections which are not capable of supporting high bandwidth connections to 5G in order to ensure that we are able to support our customers even in exceptional circumstances.

DR. ALI AI HASHMI
General Manager Networks, Omantel



HEALTH RESOLUTIONS DOCTORS ENCOURAGE YOU TO MAKE TODAY

The New Year represents a fresh start and is the perfect time to invest in your health. However, you may be unsure what resolutions will have the biggest impact. Doctors say that the easy, tangible actions you take are some of the most important.

“Many people kick off the start of each new year with big-picture health resolutions,” says Jack Resneck, Jr., M.D., president of the American Medical Association (AMA). “The good news is that small, positive health choices made right now can have long-lasting effects.”

WANT TO GET STARTED TODAY? HERE ARE THE 7 RESOLUTIONS FOR THIS YEAR

- 1. Exercise** is essential for your physical and mental health, so get moving today. A good rule of thumb for adults is at least 150 minutes a week of moderate-intensity activity, or 75 minutes a week of vigorous-intensity activity.
- 2. Vaccination** is the best protection against a number of serious illnesses. To protect yourself and your family, get up to date on your vaccines, including the annual flu shot and the COVID-19 vaccine.

3. Get screened. Estimates based on statistical models show that since April 2020, millions of screenings for breast, colorectal, and prostate cancer diagnoses may have been missed due to pandemic-related care disruptions. Check in with your physician. If you're due for preventive care, tests or screenings, make an appointment. These measures are designed to keep you

healthy and help your doctor spot certain conditions before they become more serious.

4. High blood pressure, also known as hypertension, can increase your risk of heart attack or stroke, and it affects millions. Visit [ManageYourBP.org](#) to understand what your blood pressure numbers mean and what you can do to get your blood pressure under control.

5. One in 3 adults has prediabetes, a con-

dition that can lead to type 2 diabetes if left unmanaged. However, there are steps you can take that can help delay or even prevent the onset of type 2 diabetes. Learn your risk by taking a simple 2-minute self-screening test at [DoIHavePrediabetes.org](#). This resource also features helpful lifestyle tips that can help you reverse prediabetes.

6. Whenever possible, drink water instead of sugar-

sweetened beverages and replace processed foods -- especially those with added sodium and sugar -- with nutritious, whole foods, including fruits, vegetables, whole grains, nuts, herbs and spices.

7. Invest in your mental health by managing stress, getting sufficient sleep, exercising and seeking help from a mental health professional when you need it.

-Statepoint

ROUND-UP

HYDROGEN IS CHANGING POWER DYNAMICS IN ENERGY SECTOR

As the EU tries to finalize its hydrogen rules, Asian countries are moving fast to secure deliveries and the US is committing money to set up local supply chains. Can the Middle East collaborate with both continents?

THE MOMENTUM behind hydrogen has remained strong over the past year, but unexpected twists are changing what insiders are calling the “hydrogen race.”

The European Union, the region which just two years ago held a competitive know-how advantage, is now getting caught up in defining its own regulatory framework. These rules are needed to create certainties to implement local hydrogen projects and define a hydrogen supply chain to unlock export projects abroad.

The EU’s cooperation with Gulf countries, and the Middle East in general, is one good example.

Project developers see the potential for hydrogen production in the region. Land, renewable energy, infrastructure and ports are plentiful. Such large projects increase efficiencies yet require caution, as investment mistakes could waste billions of dollars.

“It takes quite some time between the signing of the memorandum of understanding and the final investment decisions, as these projects need more time to design, to get the permits and partnerships in place. The off-takers also need to be secured,” Alexander Ritschel, head of technology at Masdar, told DW.

Masdar, a UAE-government-owned renewable energy company, is one of the major hydrogen investors in the region. It wants to be an early mover and is waiting for regulations in import markets, namely EU member states and Asian countries like Japan and South Korea.

“The financing becomes more complicated if significant rules are not defined. We don’t need to wait for all the details of all regulations, but the most important ones need to be clear,” said Ritschel.

Competition for hydrogen deliveries?

Masdar welcomes the clear political will of Asian countries, adding it is waiting for local incentive schemes to be published. “These details are being finalized, most likely next year. Whenever they are, we can go ahead.” According to Ritschel, the Middle East has the resources to meet Asian and European hydrogen demands simultaneously.

Not everybody agrees that a lack of competition among importers will lead to harmony. Some experts think the developing hydrogen economy will bring about new, competitive relationships between countries.

“Europe, and especially Germany, have a wrong perception of the hydrogen market. They think they can wait because, eventually, they will decide who will produce hydrogen, not realizing that other countries are far quicker. Exporting countries are increasingly deciding whom to collaborate with,” Dawud Ansari, a researcher at the German Institute for International and Security Affairs, told DW.

Ansari suggested that European risk aversion might be a reason for Germany’s cautious approach, but it could imply larger risks and higher energy prices in the future.

Hydrogen-focused companies see a positive state of affairs. The recent US mechanisms meant to bring the entire supply chain for green hydrogen technology within its borders are pushing European institutions to develop an equally attractive framework to avoid technology providers resettling across the Atlantic.

“There is competition between policymakers. There is competition between customers to have their projects flying because most of the support schemes have expiry dates,” Manuel Kuehn, head of sales for sustainable energy systems at Siemens Energy, told DW.

On the other hand, according to Kuehn, intra-EU competition might be more dangerous, which

is why he has called for unified EU regulations.

Many hydrogen developers also have an incentive to wait — and not only because of the regulatory framework. “Technology prices will decrease, mostly due to scale effects,” he said.

According to Siemens Energy, large regional projects are unlikely to start producing green hydrogen over the next two years.

Regional cooperation in the Middle East

Ansari pointed out that Gulf countries are advancing commercial agreements and political plans. A mix of collaboration and competition defines their strategies. For instance, since Kuwait and Bahrain do not have much leeway in the green hydrogen sphere, they are investing in other countries’ endeavors.

“There are also Saudi actors in Oman’s hydrogen projects, and UAE players being active in Saudi ones,” said Ansari, underling that countries are trying to specialize in different segments of the upcoming hydrogen economy. “Besides exporting green hydrogen directly, Oman plans to go up in the production chain and set up plants for green steel and cement. Qatar is keeping it simple. It is committed to exporting LNG and supporting clients to produce hydrogen and ammonia from LNG directly in the destination country.”

According to Ansari, Gulf countries are overriding the model imposed for years by Western management consultancies, “which only look at their own profit and show neither interest in nor knowledge of the region. The region requires different logics.”

A model for a green hydrogen industrial plant made by Iberdrola ClientesA model for a green hydrogen industrial plant made by Iberdrola Clientes

Technology competition?

As the recent tensions over US incentives show, competition is not only a matter of hydrogen deliveries. It’s also a matter of hydrogen technology. If just half of the projects in the pipeline come online as planned, massive issues with the supply chain would arise, say experts. Technology providers will play a key role in the nascent hydrogen markets.

“We have to ramp up a whole industry on the supply side, and this could take some time,” said Kuehn. “Suppliers, often smaller companies, make investments when they receive orders. It takes time for the support schemes to trickle down to suppliers.”

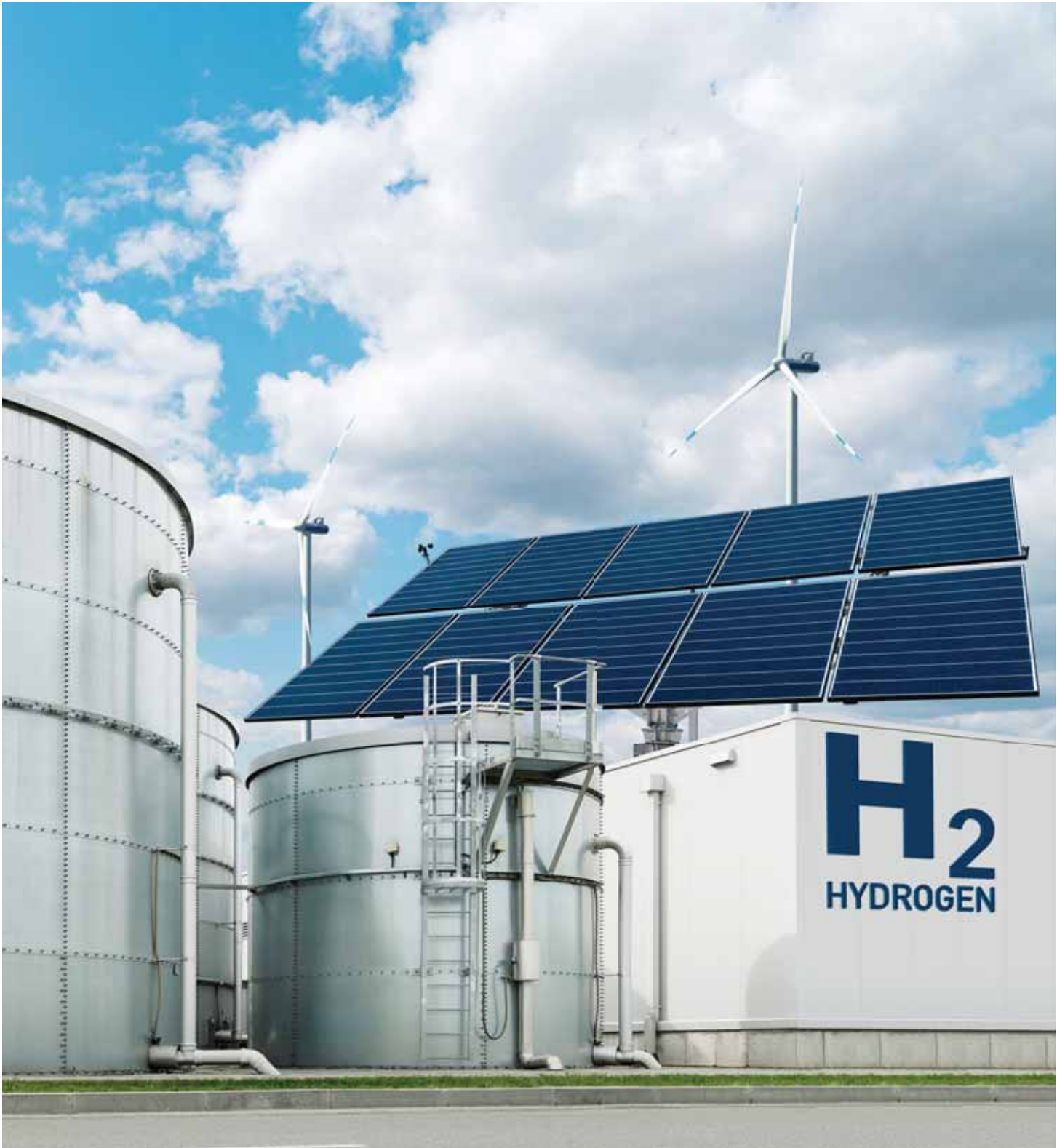
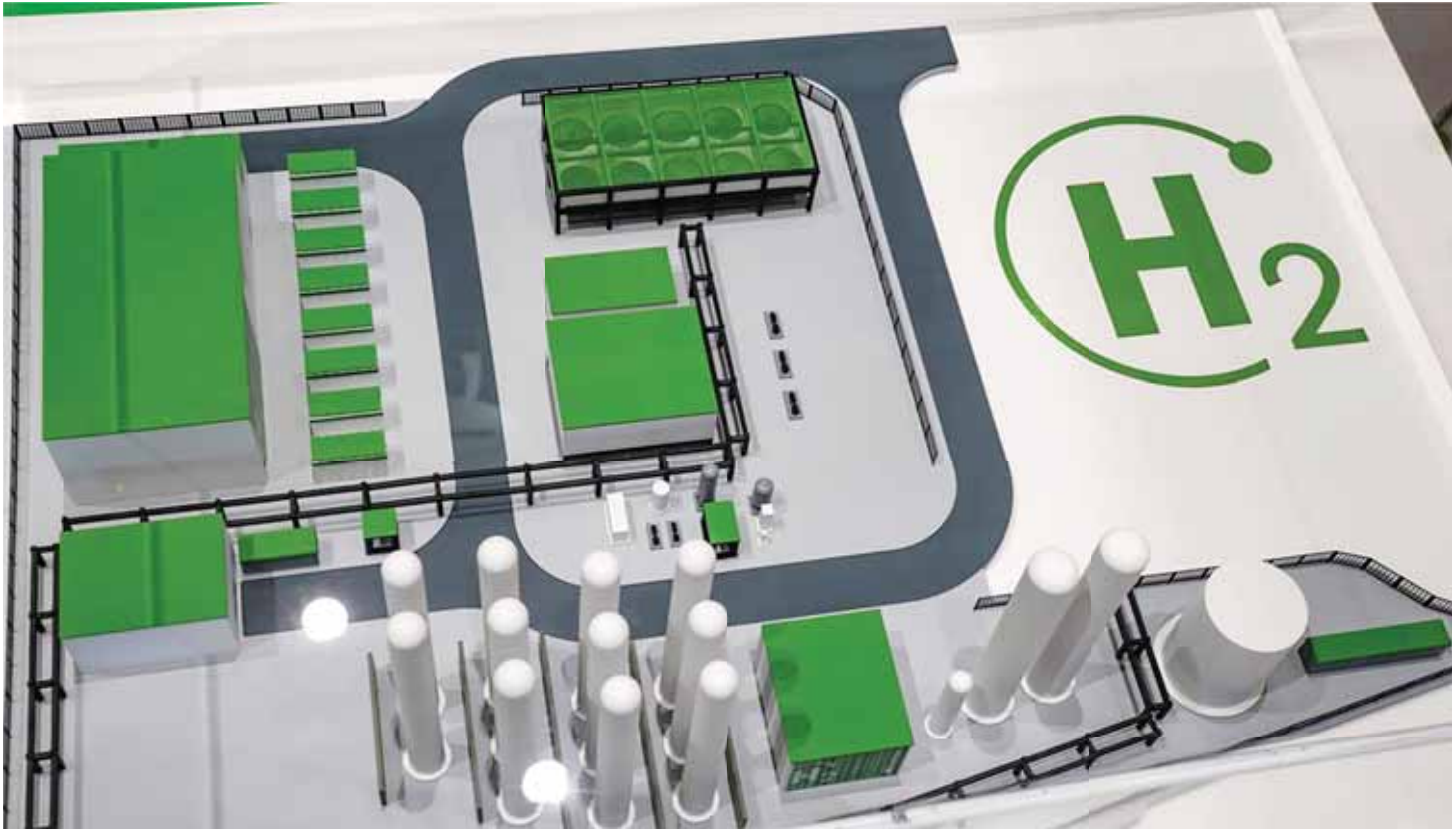
At the same time, slower developments would decrease tensions. Companies would have time to standardize new components like electrolyzers — a key component to produce hydrogen from renewable sources — and scale up the production of others, like compressors, transformers and rectifiers.

Some countries, like China, could move faster in the entire supply chain. Experts also expect the supply chain to take advantage of American policies, like the Inflation Reduction Act. That is why the EU’s policies and regulatory framework are key to unlocking investments in Europe.

“In the next couple of years, players will decide what they want to be and which role they want to play in the energy transition. I would expect disruptions as it happened in the solar and wind industries a decade ago,” said Kuehn.

In general, experts agree that competition between technologies and countries will remain. But, given the high demand for these components, all the technology providers are set to benefit.

“There will be space for every player to achieve a certain degree of scale effect to reach the endgame,” concluded Kuehn. —w



TRIBUTE TO A LEGEND



Edson Arantes do Nascimento

Pelé

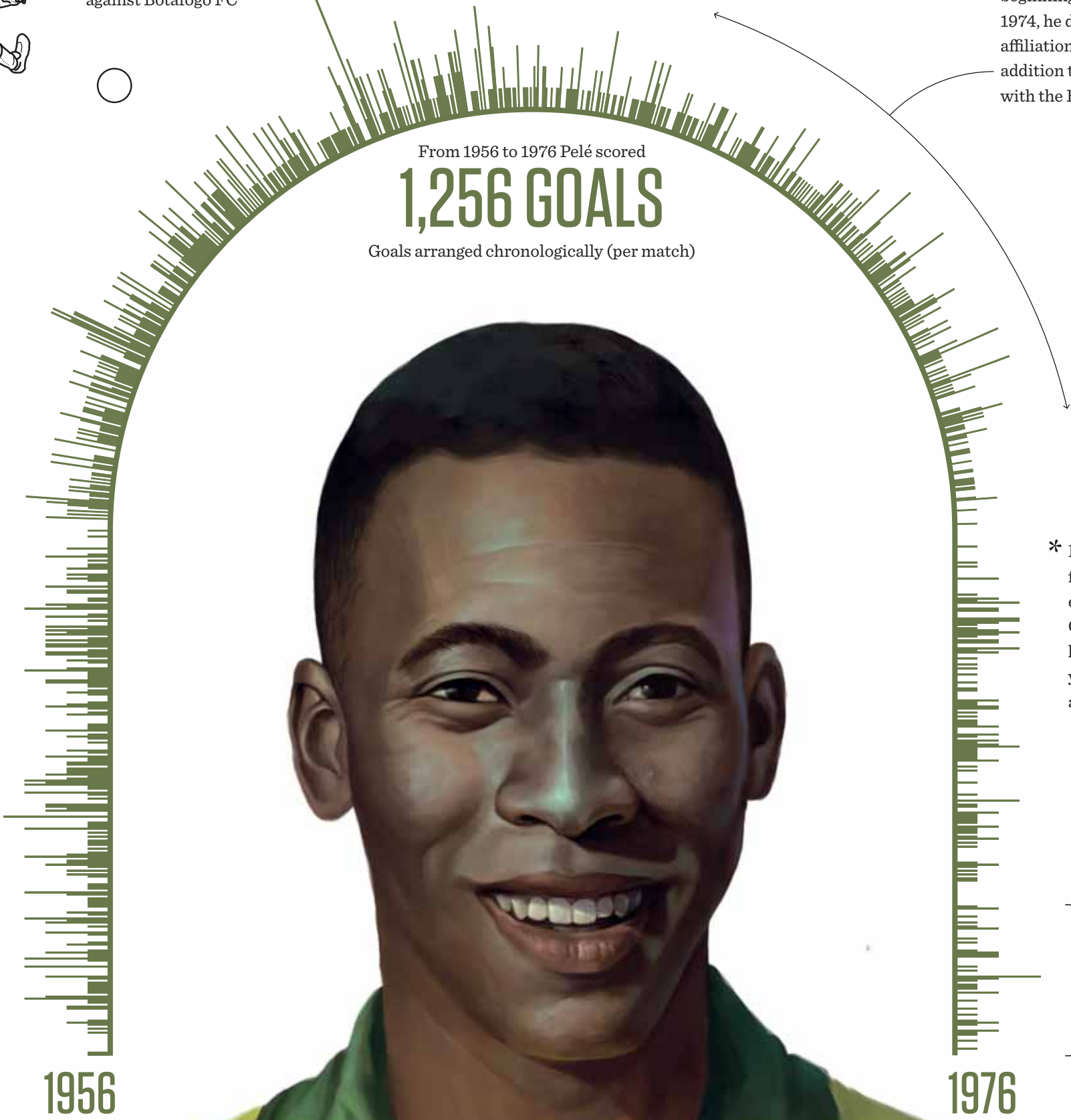
He is considered the greatest football player of all time. Born in Três Corações, Minas Gerais, Brazil (1940), he started playing football at an early age, playing with several amateur teams first. By the age of 15, he started playing with Santos FC and the Brazilian national team at 16. Considered in one tournament as ‘too young to play’, he ended up top scorer with 15 goals. This event boosted his confidence and kick started his career in football, eventually leading Brazil to win three FIFA World Cup titles (1958, 1962 and 1970). He was the only player to do so. His 77 goals in 92 games for Brazil is still unsurpassed to this day. Pelé is regarded as one of the finest goal-scorers in football history, with 757 goals in 831 games. His total of 1,279 goals in 1,363 games, including friendly matches, is recognised by Guinness World Records. He retired from football in 1977

“ I was named Edson, after Thomas Edison, because electricity had just been introduced to my hometown in Brazil when I was born ”
— Pelé



When Pelé played for Santos FC, he was able to score **8 GOALS** against Botafogo FC

Pelé played almost his entire career at Santos. Almost all the goals he scored from the beginning of his career until 1974, he did during his affiliation with Santos, in addition to his goals scored with the Brazil national team



* Pelé is the youngest football player to ever win a World Cup. At the age of 17, he is also the youngest to score at a World Cup

Pelé ended his career as player at the New York Cosmos Football Club

* His original nickname was “Dico”. While playing for Santos FC, his nickname was Gasolina after a Brazilian singer. The nickname “Pelé” was given to him due to his mispronunciation of his favourite player at that time, Bilé, a goalkeeper for Vasco da Gama. He initially hated the nickname, and according to him, “I thought Pele sounded horrible. It was a rubbish name.” But somehow the nickname got stuck

* On the origin of his number 10 shirt, he said: “The No. 10 jersey was given to me at a World Cup match in 1958. Nobody was that important to wear the No. 10 and even though I was not the oldest player in the squad, it coincidentally dropped to me to wear at the World Cup”

“Pelé was the only footballer who surpassed the boundaries of logic”
—Johan Cruyff

“Pelé is the greatest player in football history, and there will only be one Pelé in the world”
—Cristiano Ronaldo

“The best player ever? Pelé. [Lionel] Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo are both great players with specific qualities, but Pelé was better”
—Alfredo Di Stefano

“I sometimes feel as though football was invented for this magical player”
—Sir Bobby Charlton

“He is the most complete player I ever saw”
—Franz Beckenbauer

“To watch him play was to watch the delight of a child combined with the extraordinary grace of a man in full”
—Nelson Mandela

ROUND-UP

Bank Muscat celebrates achievements of its partners in automobile sector



This event is part of the bank’s constant initiatives targeted at enhancing partnership and cooperation with customers and partners and sharing ideas and feedback in line with its vision

MUSCAT: In line with the bank’s commitment to further strengthen its relationship and support partners, Bank Muscat, the leading financial provider in the Sultanate, recently hosted a special event to celebrate the achievements of the new and used vehicle dealers in the automobile sector.

The event was attended by Ahmed Faqir Al Bulushi, Chief Banking Officer, Bank Muscat, and a number of representatives from auto dealerships from across Oman. This event is part of the bank’s constant initiatives target-



ed at enhancing partnership and cooperation with customers and partners and sharing ideas and feedback in line with its vision “To serve you better, everyday”.

Speaking on the occasion, Saleh Mohammed Al Maaeni, Deputy General Manager – Capital Regions, Bank Muscat, said: “We are delighted to host our valued partners today as we constantly endeavour to celebrate this partnership and cooperation. Our partners play a huge role in helping the bank to provide the best offers,

services and facilities for its valued customers and give them the chance to own their dream cars. This success in the field would not have been possible without the cooperation, trust and partnership between the bank and all car companies, agencies and galleries in various governorates.”

Saleh Al Maaeni further elaborated saying: “Throughout four decades, the bank was keen to develop banking services and facilities for individuals and improve the quality of the various products

offered to enhance financial inclusion and offer a wide range of options to meet customers’ needs and aspirations. We are proud of the success we have achieved in this field, and we are pleased with the positive feedback and trust in the bank’s services and products. The bank is keen to further continue to provide its valued customers with the best services possible.”

During her opening speech, Radhiya Hassan Al Lawatiya, Head of Sales, Bank Muscat, said: “We are pleased to gather today in this

event which is organised to further enhance communication with our valued partners. Bank Muscat is committed to maintaining a strong relationship with car companies, agencies and galleries across the Sultanate in order to develop services, facilities and offers to meet the current and future needs of customers.

“Working towards achieving this goal, the bank launched the 2003 Sayyarati financing product to help customers own their dream cars and benefit from the different

facilities and easy procedures this product provides.

“Customers can obtain all of these services by visiting any Bank Muscat branch or one of Sayyarati centres in Al Wattayah in Muscat Governorate and Salalah in Dhofar Governorate. We appreciate this partnership and confidence in the services and facilities the bank offers which aim to contribute to the development of the automotive sector in the country.”

Radhiya Al Lawatiya, added: “The pandemic affected economies around the world and thus affected various sectors and markets, including the automobile sector. However, with the expected improvement of the economy, the markets will further continue to recover. According to the statistics issued by the National Centre for Statistics and Information, the total number of vehicles in the Sultanate of Oman, by the end of October 2022, reached 1,593,897 vehicles, and this confirms that these numbers are increasing compared to previous years, for both new and used cars. The lending portfolio in car sales is also witnessing growth compared to last year, which can be seen as a result of all efforts contributing to the stability of the sector. We are happy to continue organizing such events in the future and working towards providing different benefits and offers tailored according to each customer’s unique needs.”

IMPRESSIONS

Maserati Levante Modena: A passion for performance

MUSCAT: If you are someone interested in an SUV that offers super impressive performance on the road, then you should consider the Maserati Levante Modena.

Blending typical Maserati performance and handling with luxurious Italian luxury and design, over the years we have seen the Levante break the mould of what a luxury SUV is capable of. With spacious inside, sumptuous Italian leather interior trims and unmistakable exterior design treatment, it is a product reserved for the most discerning of customers.

Now with the Modena trim, the dynamic purpose of the Levante becomes even more explicit. We can say that it further redefines performance that pushes the boundaries of what is possible in an SUV. Designed for customers who love the world of sport, the Modena is intended as a means to make the very best of one’s time and surroundings. It is made for those looking for a balance be-



tween innate elegance, dynamism and driving pleasure.

Equipped with a 350-hp V6 petrol engine, the incredible SUV provides an exceptional driving experience with low fuel consumption, delivering torque of 500 Nm from 1,750 to 5,000 rpm. With this engine on board, the basic version of the Levante accelerates from 0 to 100 km/h in just 6.0 seconds and

reaches a top speed of 251 km/h, whilst according to WLTP data in the combined cycle, fuel consumption is 11.6 L/100 km and it emits 270 gCO₂/km. Levante Modena also comes with the 430-hp Modena S version.

It is interesting to note that the latest-generation high-performance Maserati engines, all Euro 6C-approved, are powerful, bold

and eco-friendly. Designed by Maserati Powertrain in collaboration with Ferrari, they consist of two low inertia turbines mounted in parallel, double continuous cam phasing for each cylinder head and high-pressure (200-bar) direct injection. Peak torque is achieved well below 2,000 rpm, ensuring exceptional daily drivability. The V6 engine offers advanced valve con-

trol technology, continuous cam phasing for each cylinder head, a dual turbocharger and direct injection system.

It’s impossible to miss the fact that the Levante in Modena trim level underscores its athletic features, with sporty bumpers, Piano Black accents and 20-inch alloy wheels. In the cabin, every detail is evocative of the driving pleasure typical of the brand, with the enveloping leather sports seats, the Piano Black Trim interior.

Owners will enjoy Levante Modena’s stunning interior indulgences on every drive thanks to power-adjustable front seats, a leather-wrapped multi-function steering wheel, keyless ignition, dual-zone automatic climate control, and a power liftgate. Additionally, the full-colour touchscreen infotainment system offers navigation, Bluetooth, Android Auto, Apple CarPlay, USB/Aux inputs, and high-fidelity audio to keep them connected and entertained.

It’s rich with features such as adaptive cruise control, forward collision warning, blind-spot monitoring with rear cross-traffic alert, lane departure warning, a back-up camera, front/rear parking sensors, rain-sensing windshield wipers, anti-lock brakes, advanced airbags, and traction/stability control to help keep the driver and passengers out of harm’s way.

For those who are curious, yes, the SUV wouldn’t be a Maserati without a signature deep-throated Italian exhaust note, and the Levante Modena does not dissatisfy. Even light pressure on the accelerator can activate a snarling sound that is simply music to any car enthusiast’s ears, while simultaneously grabbing the attention of every other driver within earshot.

Levante Modena’s unique personality was envisioned to conquer new horizons and it does so abundantly. Choose to stand out from the crowd with the Maserati Levante Modena.





Alkaline Ionized Drinking Water



HYDRATE SMARTLY

✓ Ultra-hydrating

✓ Revitalizing

✓ Energizing

pH 9.1 to 9.5



oman OASIS

Toll-free

800 71 222 or

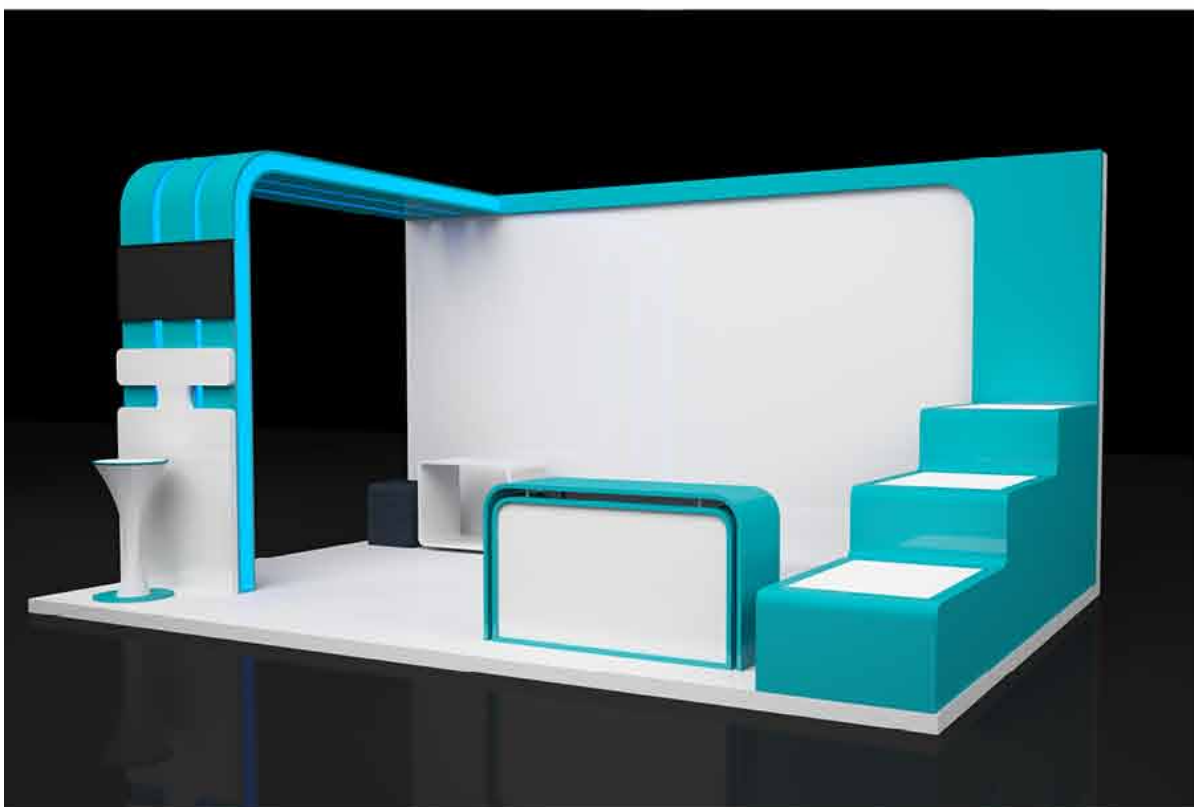
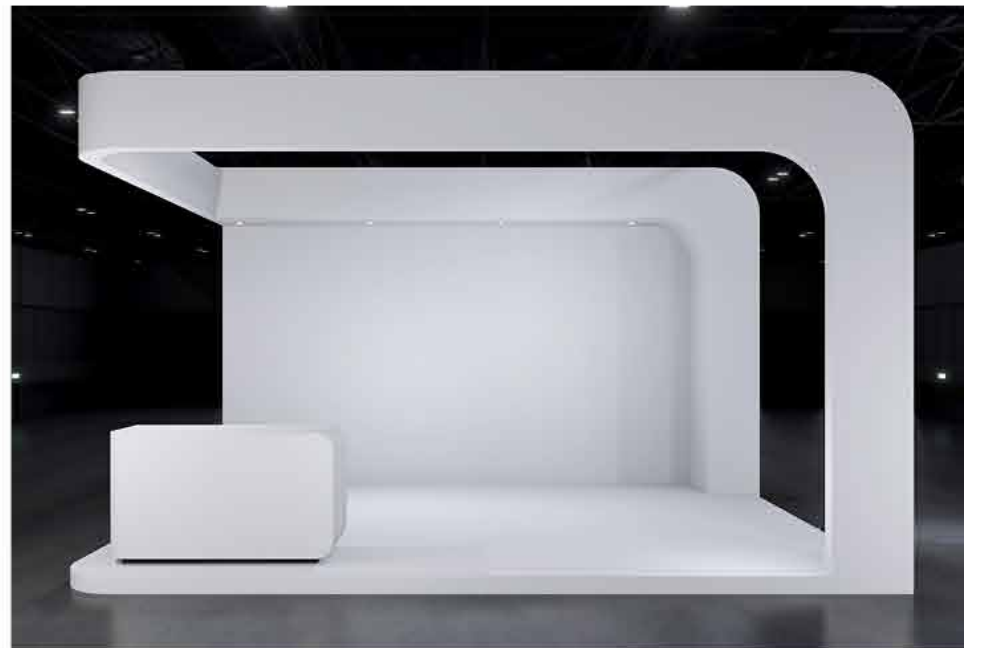
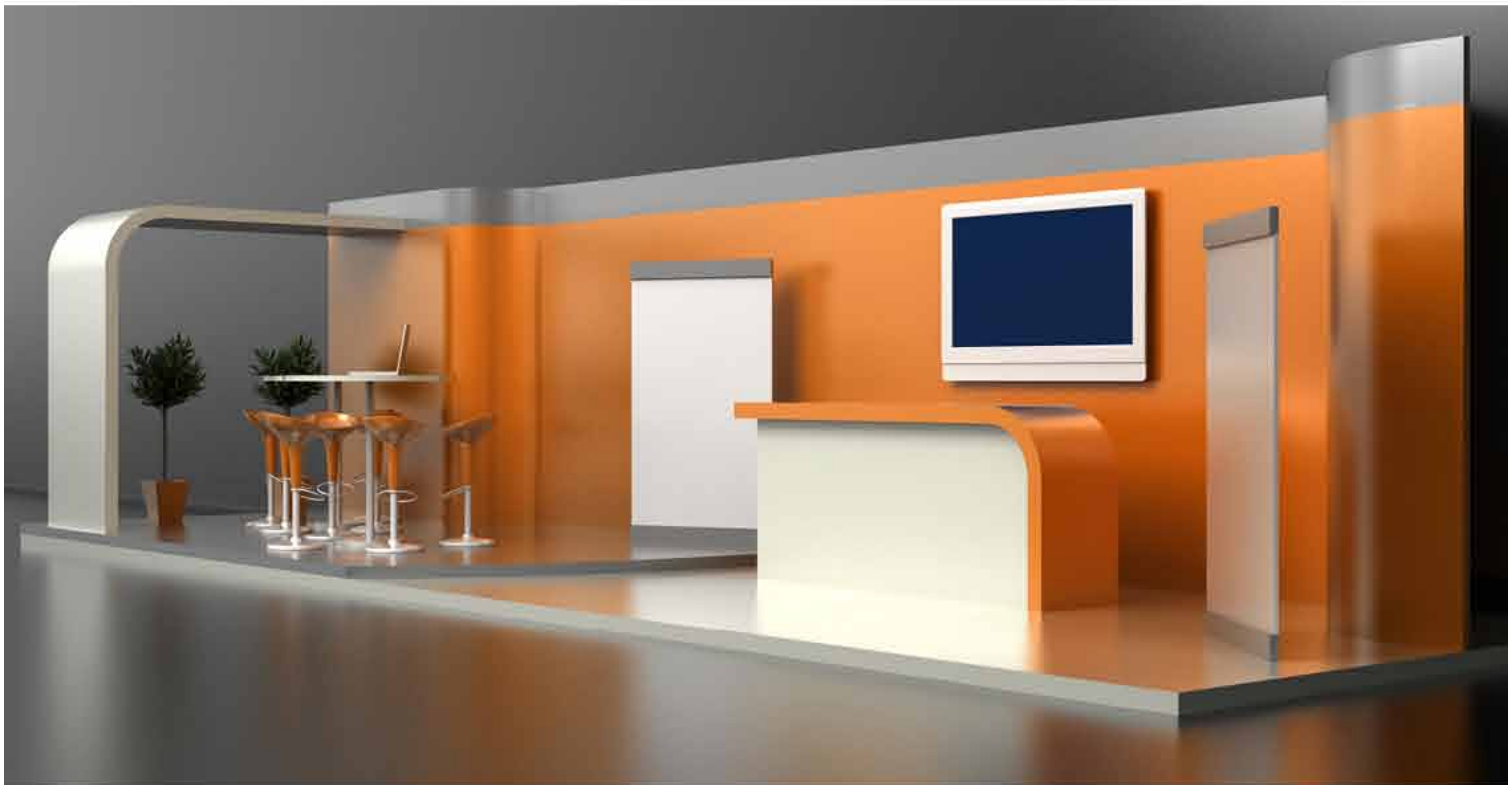
9275 5522

C.R. No.: 1365452



**FOR COST
EFFECTIVE
EXHIBITION
BOOTHS/
DISPLAY
STANDS**

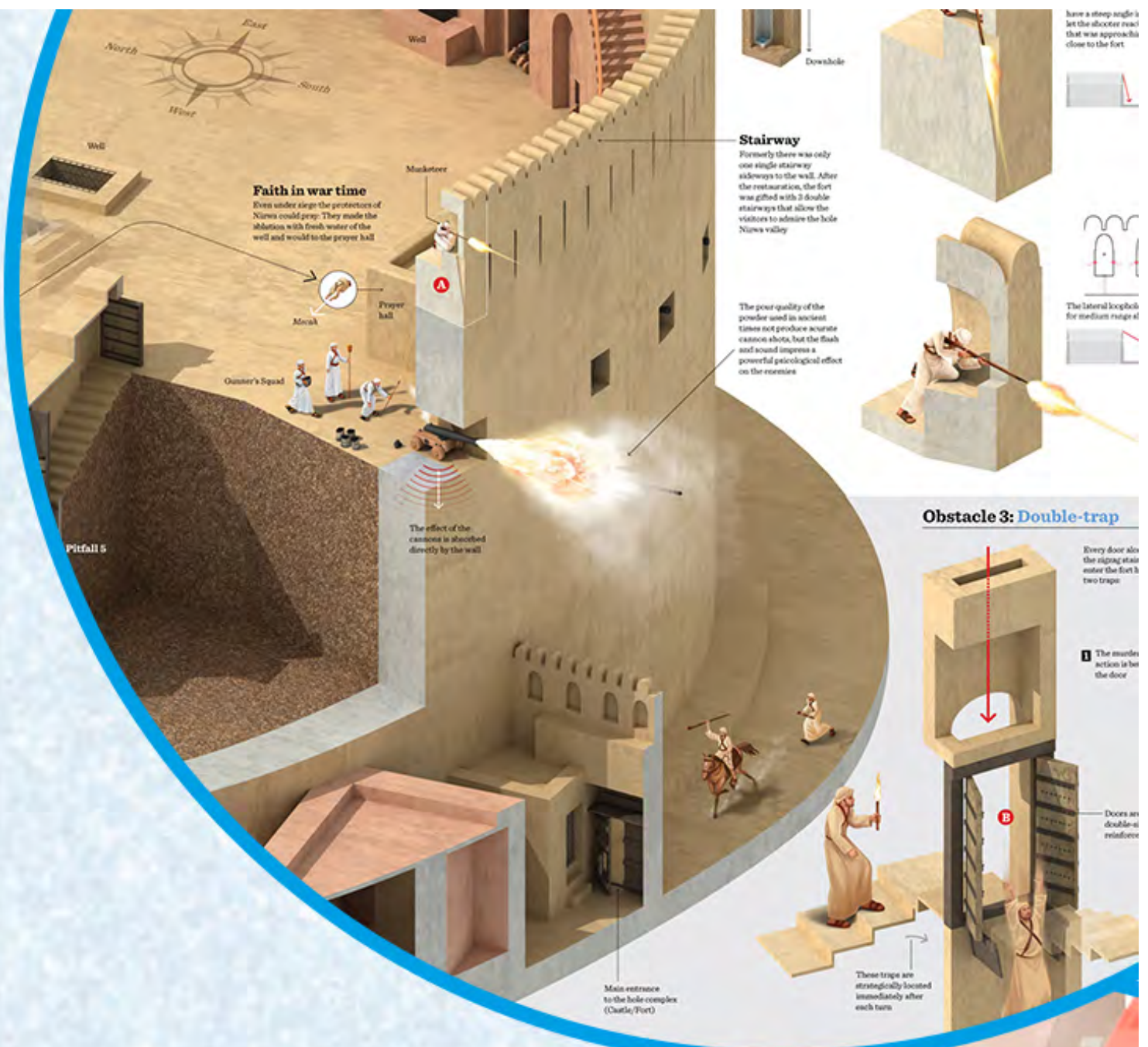
**Call us on
99614066**



**Contact us on wefix@mmg.com
or call/whatsApp 99614066/ 95405033
to make customized exhibition booths**



novagram



Let Novagram tell your story

Infographics
Infomercials
TV Ads
Corporate Videos
Insta Reels
Video Editing
Multimedia & Animation
Studio Services

CALL US:
97211869

sales@novagram.om



مجموعة مسقط للإعلام
Muscat Media Group

